Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Health Quality Subcommittee Representative Rodriguez, A. M. offered the following:

Amendment (with title amendment)

Between lines 414 and 415, insert:

Section 1. Paragraph (k) of subsection (1) of section 456.072, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

456.072  Grounds for discipline; penalties; enforcement.—  
(1) The following acts shall constitute grounds for which the disciplinary actions specified in subsection (2) may be taken:

(k) Failing to perform any statutory or legal obligation placed upon a licensee. For purposes of this section, failing to repay a student loan issued or guaranteed by the state or the Federal Government in accordance with the terms of the loan is
not or failing to comply with service scholarship obligations shall be considered a failure to perform a statutory or legal obligation, and the minimum disciplinary action imposed shall be a suspension of the license until new payment terms are agreed upon or the scholarship obligation is resumed, followed by probation for the duration of the student loan or remaining scholarship obligation period, and a fine equal to 10 percent of the defaulted loan amount. Fines collected shall be deposited into the Medical Quality Assurance Trust Fund.

Section 2. Section 456.0721, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

Section 3. Subsection (4) of section 456.074, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

456.074 Certain health care practitioners; immediate suspension of license.—

(4) Upon receipt of information that a Florida-licensed health care practitioner has defaulted on a student loan issued or guaranteed by the state or the Federal Government, the department shall notify the licensee by certified mail that he or she shall be subject to immediate suspension of license unless, within 45 days after the date of mailing, the licensee provides proof that new payment terms have been agreed upon by all parties to the loan. The department shall issue an emergency order suspending the license of any licensee who, after 45 days following the date of mailing from the department, has failed to
provide such proof. Production of such proof shall not prohibit
the department from proceeding with disciplinary action against
the licensee pursuant to s. 456.073.

TITLE AMENDMENT

Between lines 23 and 24, insert:

456.072, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act;
repealing s. 456.0721, F.S., relating to health care
practitioners in default on student loan or scholarship
obligations; amending s. 456.074, F.S.; conforming provisions to
changes made by the act; amending s.