

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1451 Session of  
2008

INTRODUCED BY BROWNE, PILEGGI, EARLL, M. WHITE, ERICKSON,  
CORMAN, PIPPY, COSTA, MADIGAN, ORIE, BAKER, FOLMER, WAUGH,  
TARTAGLIONE AND RAFFERTY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2008

REFERRED TO CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE,  
SEPTEMBER 18, 2008

AN ACT

1 Providing for use of volunteer time by health care professionals  
2 in meeting continuing education requirements.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Volunteer  
7 Continuing Medical Education Act.

8 Section 2. Definitions.

9 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall  
10 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
11 context clearly indicates otherwise:

12 "Community-based health care clinic." A nonprofit health  
13 care center located in this Commonwealth that provides health  
14 care services to low-income and uninsured individuals and meets  
15 either of the following criteria:

16 (1) serves a federally designated medically underserved  
17 area, a medically underserved population or a health

1 professional shortage area; or

2 (2) serves a patient population with a majority of that  
3 population having an income less than 200% of the Federal  
4 poverty income guidelines, including:

5 (i) A federally qualified health center as defined  
6 in section 1905(1)(2)(B) of the Social Security Act (49  
7 Stat. 620, 42 U.S.C. § 1396d(1)(2)(B)) or a federally  
8 qualified health center look-alike.

9 (ii) A rural health clinic as defined in section  
10 1861(aa)(2) of the Social Security Act (49 Stat. 620, 42  
11 U.S.C. § 1395x(aa)(2)), certified by Medicare.

12 (iii) A hospital health clinic.

13 (iv) A free or partial-pay health clinic that  
14 provides services by volunteer and nonvolunteer health  
15 care providers.

16 (v) A nurse-managed health care clinic that is  
17 managed by advanced practice nurses and is associated  
18 with a department of nursing, a federally qualified  
19 health center or an independent nonprofit health or  
20 social services agency.

21 "Health care professional." A physician, dentist, dental  
22 hygienist, nurse, certified registered nurse practitioner or  
23 physician assistant licensed, certified or registered with any  
24 of the licensure boards.

25 "Licensure board." Includes the following departmental  
26 administrative boards within the Department of State:

27 (1) The State Board of Medicine.

28 (2) The State Board of Osteopathic Medicine.

29 (3) The State Board of Denistry.

30 (4) The State Board of Nursing.

1 Section 3. Volunteer continuing education.

2 Beginning with the licensure period commencing after the  
3 effective date of this act and following written notice by the  
4 appropriate licensure board, health care professionals shall be  
5 permitted to apply volunteer time served in a community-based  
6 health care clinic toward completion of mandatory continuing  
7 education hours required by the appropriate licensure board.  
8 Acceptable documentation of volunteer hours shall be done in  
9 accordance with applicable regulations.

10 Section 4. Annual report.

11 The Department of State shall submit a report to the chair  
12 and minority chair of the Public Health and Welfare Committee of  
13 the Senate and the chair and minority chair of the Health and  
14 Human Resources Committee of the House of Representatives  
15 detailing the number of health care professionals who have  
16 applied volunteer hours served in a community-based health care  
17 clinic.

18 Section 20. Effective date.

19 This act shall take effect in 60 days.