

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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**HOUSE BILL**  
**No. 2511** Session of  
1996

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INTRODUCED BY VANCE AND DENT, MARCH 25, 1996

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, MARCH 25, 1996

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AN ACT

1 Providing for volunteer health services; limiting liability of a  
2 volunteer license holder; and requiring reports.

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 Health Services Act.

8 Section 2. Purpose.

9 It is the purpose of this act to increase the availability of  
10 primary health care services by establishing a procedure through  
11 which physicians and other health care practitioners who are  
12 retired from active practice may provide professional services  
13 to financially qualified individuals in a clinical setting as a  
14 volunteer.

15 Section 3. Definitions.

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

1 "Board." The State Board of Medicine, the State Board of  
2 Osteopathic Medicine, the State Board of Dentistry, the State  
3 Board of Podiatry, the State Board of Nursing and the State  
4 Board of Chiropractic.

5 "Health care practitioner." An individual licensed to  
6 practice a component of the healing arts by a licensing board  
7 within the Department of State.

8 "Licensee." An individual who holds a current, active,  
9 unrestricted license as a health care practitioner issued by the  
10 appropriate board.

11 "Volunteer license." A license issued by the appropriate  
12 board to a retired individual who documents, to the board's  
13 satisfaction, that he shall practice solely in organized  
14 clinical settings approved by the board for the care and  
15 treatment of needy patients or patients in medically underserved  
16 regions of this Commonwealth without remuneration.

17 Section 4. Volunteer status.

18 A licensee in good standing who retires from active practice  
19 may apply, on forms provided by the appropriate board, to place  
20 his license on volunteer status.

21 Section 5. Regulations.

22 Each board shall promulgate regulations governing the  
23 volunteer license category. The regulations shall include:

24 (1) Qualifications for placing a licensee on volunteer  
25 status.

26 (2) Criteria under which a licensee who, having retired  
27 in good standing and allowed his license to become inactive  
28 prior to the effective date of this act, may be issued a  
29 volunteer license.

30 (3) Procedures under which a volunteer license holder

1       may return to active practice.

2           (4)   Appropriate clinical settings.

3   Section 6.   License renewal.

4       A volunteer license shall be subject to biennial renewal.

5   Section 7.   Liability.

6       The liability of a volunteer license holder for civil damages  
7   as a result of acts or omissions during the rendering of health  
8   care in accordance with the limitations of the volunteer license  
9   shall be limited to intentional or reckless acts or omissions.

10   There shall be no liability for negligent acts or omissions.

11   Section 8.   Report.

12       Beginning 30 days after the effective date of this act and  
13   every 30 days thereafter until such regulations are in effect,  
14   the chairmen of the appropriate boards shall report in writing  
15   to the Commissioner of Professional and Occupational Affairs on  
16   the status of the volunteer license regulations, who shall  
17   convey the required reports to the standing committees on  
18   Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure and Public Health  
19   and Welfare of the Senate and the standing committees on  
20   Professional Licensure and Health and Human Services of the  
21   House of Representatives.

22   Section 9.   Exemptions.

23       For the purposes of this act, licensees subject to the  
24   provisions of the act of October 15, 1975 (P.L.390, No.111),  
25   known as the Health Care Services Malpractice Act, shall be  
26   exempt from the requirements of that act with regard to the  
27   maintenance of liability insurance coverage. Individuals holding  
28   a license issued by the State Board of Chiropractic shall be  
29   exempt from the provisions of section 508 of the act of December  
30   16, 1986 (P.L.1646, No.188), known as the Chiropractic Practice

1 Act.

2 Section 10. Effective date.

3 This act shall take effect in 60 days.