HOUSE AMENDED

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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 464 Session of 2009

INTRODUCED BY BROWNE, ERICKSON, BAKER, BOSCOLA, FOLMER, ORIE, BRUBAKER, WAUGH, PIPPY, COSTA, WOZNIAK, VANCE, EARLL, SMUCKER, CORMAN, ALLOWAY, PILEGGI, RAFFERTY, TARTAGLIONE AND WONDERLING, MARCH 2, 2009

AS REPORTED FROM PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, JULY 14, 2009

AN ACT

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

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

Section 1. Short title.

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

Section 2. Definitions.

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

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

(1) serves a federally designated medically underserved

area, a medically underserved population or a health professional shortage area; or

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

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

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

(iii) A hospital health clinic.

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

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

"Health care professional." A physician, dentist, dental hygienist, nurse, certified registered nurse practitioner licensed, certified or registered with ~~any of the licensure boards~~ THE RESPECTIVE LICENSING BOARD.

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

(1) The State Board of Medicine.

(2) The State Board of Osteopathic Medicine.

(3) The State Board of Dentistry.

(4) The State Board of Nursing.

Section 3. Volunteer continuing education.

Beginning with the licensure period commencing after the effective date of this act and following written notice by the appropriate licensure board, health care professionals shall be permitted to apply volunteer time served in a community-based health care clinic toward completion of no more than 20% of the mandatory continuing education hours required by the appropriate licensure board, except for continuing education required under section 6 of the act of December 4, 1996 (P.L.893, No.141), known as the Volunteer Health Services Act. Acceptable documentation of volunteer hours shall be done in accordance with policy established by each board. Policies shall be effective upon publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

Section 4. Annual report.

The Department of State shall submit a report to the chair and minority chair of the Public Health and Welfare Committee of the Senate and the chair and minority chair of the Health and Human Resources Committee of the House of Representatives detailing the number of health care professionals who have indicated they have applied volunteer hours served in a community-based health care clinic, in their renewal application.

Section 20. Effective date.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.