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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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**HOUSE BILL**  
**No. 2705** Session of  
2008

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INTRODUCED BY MCILVAINE SMITH, BOBACK, BRENNAN, CALTAGIRONE,  
EACHUS, FRANKEL, GEORGE, GRUCELA, HENNESSEY, JAMES, JOSEPHS,  
KORTZ, KULA, MCGEEHAN, MELIO, MYERS, M. O'BRIEN, PARKER,  
ROEBUCK, K. SMITH, SWANGER, THOMAS, YOUNGBLOOD, MURT AND  
BENNINGTON, JULY 9, 2008

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, JULY 9, 2008

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AN ACT

1 Providing for instruction of domestic violence awareness for  
2 health care professionals licensed or certified by the  
3 Commonwealth or governed by the State Board of Medicine,  
4 State Board of Osteopathic Medicine or State Board of  
5 Nursing.

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

8 Section 1. Short title.

9 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Domestic  
10 Violence Awareness Continuing Medical Education Act.

11 Section 2. Biennial relicensure and recertification.

12 (a) Requirements.--The appropriate licensing board shall  
13 require physicians, certified nurse practitioners, registered  
14 nurses, licensed practical nurses, nurse aides and assistants or  
15 any other health care professional licensed or certified by the  
16 Commonwealth or governed by the State Board of Medicine, State  
17 Board of Osteopathic Medicine or State Board of Nursing to  
18 complete a one hour continuing medical education course,

1 approved by the appropriate licensing board, on domestic  
2 violence awareness as part of the biennial relicensure or  
3 recertification as defined under section 25(b) of the act of  
4 December 20, 1985 (P.L.457, No.112), known as the Medical  
5 Practice Act of 1985. The course shall consist of information on  
6 domestic violence, the impact of domestic violence on patients'  
7 health, the number of patients in that professional's practice  
8 who are likely to be victims of domestic violence and the number  
9 who are likely to be perpetrators of domestic violence,  
10 screening procedures for determining whether a patient has any  
11 history of being either a victim or a perpetrator of domestic  
12 violence and instruction on how to provide the patients with  
13 information and referrals to resources in the local community,  
14 such as domestic violence programs and advocacy groups that  
15 provide legal aid, shelters, victim counseling, batterer  
16 intervention services or counseling for children.

17 (b) Confirmation.--Each licensee or certificate holder shall  
18 submit confirmation of having completed the required course on a  
19 form provided by the appropriate licensing board when submitting  
20 fees for each biennial renewal.

21 (c) Alternative courses.--The appropriate licensing board  
22 may approve additional equivalent courses, which shall contain  
23 all of the required elements specified under subsection (a),  
24 that may be used to satisfy the requirements of this section.  
25 Each licensing board that requires a licensee to complete an  
26 education course under this subsection may include the hours  
27 required for completion of the course in the total hours of  
28 continuing medical education required by law for the profession.

29 (d) Multiple licenses.--Any person holding two or more  
30 licenses subject to the provisions of this act shall be

1 permitted to show proof of having taken one board-approved  
2 course on domestic violence awareness for purposes of  
3 relicensure or recertification for additional licenses.

4 (e) Failure to comply.--Failure to comply with the  
5 requirements of this section shall constitute grounds for  
6 disciplinary action under each respective practice act. In  
7 addition to discipline by the appropriate licensing board, the  
8 licensee or certificate holder shall be required to complete the  
9 course set forth under subsection (a).

#### 10 Section 3. Initial licensure and certification.

11 (a) Board requirements.--The appropriate licensing board  
12 shall also require, as a condition of granting a license in this  
13 Commonwealth, that each applicant for initial licensure by the  
14 appropriate licensing board complete an educational course  
15 acceptable to the board on domestic violence awareness which is  
16 substantially equivalent to the course required under section  
17 2(a).

18 (b) Compliance.--An applicant who has not taken the course  
19 at the time of licensure shall, upon submission of an affidavit  
20 showing good cause, be granted six months to complete the  
21 requirement.

#### 22 Section 4. Reporting.

23 Each licensing board shall report to the Department of State,  
24 the chair of the Public Health and Welfare Committee of the  
25 Senate and the chair of the Health and Human Services Committee  
26 of the House of Representatives by July 1 of each year as to the  
27 implementation of and compliance with the requirements of this  
28 act.

#### 29 Section 5. Effective date.

30 This act shall take effect in 120 days.