
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2727 Session of
2008

INTRODUCED BY KILLION, BENNINGHOFF, ADOLPH, BRENNAN, CREIGHTON,
DeLUCA, J. EVANS, GEORGE, GINGRICH, HARHART, HENNESSEY,
MAHONEY, MANN, MARSICO, MENSCH, MOUL, MUNDY, MYERS, RAPP,
ROCK, SAYLOR, SIPTROTH, SOLOBAY, SONNEY, SWANGER, THOMAS,
WATSON AND YOUNGBLOOD, AUGUST 5, 2008

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, AUGUST 5, 2008

AN ACT

1 Providing for identification badge for licensed health care
2 practitioner and for penalties.

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 Health Care
7 Practitioner Identification Badge Act.

8 Section 2. Purpose.

9 It is the purpose of this act to provide a uniform standard
10 in health care settings by which patients can be apprised of the
11 identity and licensure credentials of individuals who provide
12 health care services to them.

13 Section 3. Definitions.

14 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
15 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
16 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, the State Board
4 of Optometry, the State Board of Chiropractic, the State Board
5 of Physical Therapy, the State Board of Pharmacy, the State
6 Board of Psychology, the State Board of Examiners in Speech-
7 Language and Hearing, the State Board of Occupational Therapy
8 Education and Licensure and the State Board of Social Workers,
9 Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors.

10 "Bureau." The Bureau of Professional and Occupational
11 Affairs within the Department of State.

12 "Health care practitioner." An individual who is authorized
13 to practice a component of the healing arts by a license,
14 permit, certificate or registration issued by a licensing board
15 within the Department of State.

16 Section 4. Identification badge required.

17 (a) Requirement.--When treating a patient, working in a
18 health care facility or when engaged in face-to-face contact
19 with the public in a professional capacity, a health care
20 practitioner shall wear an identification badge displaying the
21 practitioner's name and photograph and the license,
22 certification or registration held by the practitioner.

23 (b) Type of badge.--The identification badge shall be
24 designed in accordance with the standards set forth under
25 section 5.

26 Section 5. Standards.

27 Badges must comply with the following standards:

28 (1) The overall size of the badge shall be at least
29 three and one-fourth inches by two inches.

30 (2) A photograph of the practitioner shall be on the

1 badge and shall be at least one and one-fourth inches by one
2 and one-fourth inches in size.

3 (3) The name and degree of the practitioner shall be in
4 12-point bold-face type.

5 (4) The professional license, certification or
6 registration designation of the practitioner shall be in 18-
7 point type and shall occupy a one-half inch wide strip along
8 the bottom edge of the badge.

9 Section 6. Issuance.

10 The board shall issue two identification badges required
11 under this act to a practitioner upon the issuance of an
12 original or renewed professional license, certificate or
13 registration to a practitioner.

14 Section 7. Exceptions.

15 (a) General exceptions.--A health care practitioner shall
16 not be required to wear an identification badge while engaged in
17 procedures requiring full sterile dress or procedures requiring
18 other protective clothing or covering. Identification of the
19 practitioner may be limited to first name only and professional
20 designation when full name identification may place the personal
21 safety of the practitioner in jeopardy or interfere with the
22 therapeutic relationship between the practitioner and a patient.

23 (b) Other exceptions.--The bureau may designate additional
24 exceptions consistent with paragraph (a).

25 Section 8. Alternative identification badges.

26 A hospital, nursing home, pharmacy, physician practice or
27 other health care facility may issue an identification badge to
28 a practitioner practicing in that facility, which may be worn in
29 lieu of the identification badge required under this act if:

30 (1) the badge comports with the standards set forth

1 under section 5; and

2 (2) approval is granted by the bureau.

3 Section 9. Violation.

4 A violation of this act is a ground for disciplinary action
5 against the health care practitioner by the practitioner's
6 licensing board or other regulatory authority.

7 Section 10. Effective date.

8 This act shall take effect in 60 days.