

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

SENATOR TOMLINSON, CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL
LICENSURE, AS AMENDED, MARCH 31, 2009

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

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

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

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

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

13 (iii) A hospital health clinic.

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

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

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

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

28 (1) The State Board of Medicine.

29 (2) The State Board of Osteopathic Medicine.

30 (3) The State Board of Dentistry.

1 (4) The State Board of Nursing.

2 Section 3. Volunteer continuing education.

3 Beginning with the licensure period commencing after the
4 effective date of this act and following written notice by the
5 appropriate licensure board, health care professionals shall be
6 permitted to apply volunteer time served in a community-based
7 health care clinic toward completion of NO MORE THAN 20% OF THE ←
8 mandatory continuing education hours required by the appropriate
9 licensure board, EXCEPT FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIRED UNDER ←
10 SECTION 6 OF THE ACT OF DECEMBER 4, 1996 (P.L.893, NO.141),
11 KNOWN AS THE VOLUNTEER HEALTH SERVICES ACT. Acceptable
12 documentation of volunteer hours shall be done in accordance
13 with ~~applicable regulations~~ POLICY ESTABLISHED BY EACH BOARD. ←
14 POLICIES SHALL BE EFFECTIVE UPON PUBLICATION IN THE PENNSYLVANIA ←
15 BULLETIN.

16 Section 4. Annual report.

17 The Department of State shall submit a report to the chair
18 and minority chair of the Public Health and Welfare Committee of
19 the Senate and the chair and minority chair of the Health and
20 Human Resources Committee of the House of Representatives
21 detailing the number of health care professionals who have
22 INDICATED THEY HAVE applied volunteer hours served in a ←
23 community-based health care clinic, IN THEIR RENEWAL ←
24 APPLICATION.

25 Section 20. Effective date.

26 This act shall take effect in 60 days.