

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 554 Session of
2011

INTRODUCED BY BROWNE, ORIE, PILEGGI, FONTANA, SMUCKER, ERICKSON,
FOLMER, RAFFERTY, ALLOWAY, TARTAGLIONE, PIPPY, BOSCOLA,
COSTA, BAKER, CORMAN, MENSCH, BRUBAKER, EARLL, WAUGH, VANCE
AND WARD, FEBRUARY 17, 2011

REFERRED TO CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE,
FEBRUARY 17, 2011

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
24 licensed, certified or registered with the respective licensing
25 board.

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 policy established by each board. Policies shall be
14 effective upon publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

15 Section 4. Annual report.

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

24 Section 20. Effective date.

25 This act shall take effect in 60 days.