
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

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(1)(2)(B) of the Social Security Act (49 Stat. 620, 42 U.S.C. § 1396d(1)(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 ~~or physician assistant~~ licensed, certified or registered with any of the licensure boards.

"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 ~~applicable regulations~~ 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.