
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1410 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY BROWNE, NOVEMBER 16, 2016

REFERRED TO CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE,
NOVEMBER 16, 2016

AN ACT

1 Providing for use of volunteer time by health care professionals
2 in meeting continuing education requirements and for reports
3 by the Department of State.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Volunteer
8 Continuing Medical Education Act.

9 Section 2. Definitions.

10 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
11 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
12 context clearly indicates otherwise:

13 "Community-based health care clinic." A nonprofit health
14 care center located in this Commonwealth that provides health
15 care services to low-income and uninsured individuals and meets
16 either of the following criteria:

17 (1) serves a federally designated medically underserved
18 area, a medically underserved population or a health

1 professional shortage area; or

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

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

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

12 (iii) A hospital health clinic.

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

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

21 "Health care professional." A physician, dentist, dental
22 hygienist, nurse or certified registered nurse practitioner,
23 licensed, certified or registered with the respective licensure
24 board.

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

27 (1) The State Board of Medicine.

28 (2) The State Board of Osteopathic Medicine.

29 (3) The State Board of Dentistry.

30 (4) The State Board of Nursing.

1 Section 3. Volunteer continuing education.

2 Beginning with the licensure period commencing after the
3 effective date of this act and following written notice by the
4 appropriate licensure board, health care professionals shall be
5 permitted to apply volunteer time served in a community-based
6 health care clinic toward completion of no more than 20% of the
7 mandatory continuing education hours required by the appropriate
8 licensure board, except for continuing education required under
9 section 6 of the act of December 4, 1996 (P.L.893, No.141),
10 known as the Volunteer Health Services Act. Acceptable
11 documentation of volunteer hours shall be done in accordance
12 with policy established by each board. Policies shall be
13 effective upon publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

14 Section 4. Annual report.

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

24 Section 5. Effective date.

25 This act shall take effect in 60 days.