

Chapter 437

(House Bill 580)

AN ACT concerning

Health Care Disparities, Cultural and Linguistic Competency, and Health Literacy – ~~Continuing Education~~ Recommended Courses

FOR the purpose of ~~requiring certain applicants and health care professionals to provide to certain boards evidence of completion of certain continuing education requirements; requiring certain boards, in consultation with the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities and State experts, to adopt certain regulations; stating the intent of the General Assembly that the regulations require a certain percentage of the total required continuing education credits be in health care disparities, cultural and linguistic competency, and health literacy; requiring certain boards, on or before a certain date, to approve certain continuing education courses; requiring courses approved by a board to include certain instruction; authorizing a board to approve certain courses; requiring the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities to provide to certain health occupations boards a list of certain recommended courses; requiring each board to post a certain list in a certain manner on the board's Web site, provide information about the courses to certain health care professionals at a certain time, and advertise the availability of certain courses in certain newsletters and media; defining certain terms; and generally relating to continuing education recommended courses in health care disparities, cultural and linguistic competency, and health literacy for health care providers~~ professionals.

BY adding to

Article – Health Occupations

Section 1-801 ~~through 1-804~~ and 1-802 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 8. Continuing Education in Health Care Disparities, Cultural and Linguistic Competency, and Health Literacy”

Annotated Code of Maryland
(2014 Replacement Volume)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Health Occupations**SUBTITLE 8. CONTINUING EDUCATION IN HEALTH CARE DISPARITIES, CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC COMPETENCY, AND HEALTH LITERACY.****1-801.**

(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(B) “APPLICANT” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO APPLIES FOR LICENSURE TO PRACTICE AS A HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL.

(C) “BOARD” MEANS:

- (1) THE STATE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS;**
- (2) THE STATE BOARD OF NURSING;**
- (3) THE STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY;**
- (4) THE STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY;**
- (5) THE STATE BOARD OF PHYSICIANS;**
- (6) THE STATE BOARD OF PODIATRIC MEDICAL EXAMINERS;**
- (7) THE STATE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS AND THERAPISTS;**
- (8) THE STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF PSYCHOLOGISTS; AND**
- (9) THE STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS.**

(D) “HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL” MEANS:

- (1) A DENTIST LICENSED BY THE STATE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS;**
- (2) A REGISTERED NURSE OR LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE LICENSED BY THE STATE BOARD OF NURSING;**
- (3) AN OPTOMETRIST LICENSED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY;**
- (4) A PHARMACIST LICENSED BY THE STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY;**
- (5) A PHYSICIAN LICENSED BY THE STATE BOARD OF PHYSICIANS;**
- (6) A PODIATRIST LICENSED BY THE STATE BOARD OF PODIATRIC MEDICAL EXAMINERS;**

(7) AN INDIVIDUAL LICENSED BY THE STATE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS AND THERAPISTS;

(8) A PSYCHOLOGIST LICENSED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF PSYCHOLOGISTS; AND

(9) AN ASSOCIATE SOCIAL WORKER, A GRADUATE SOCIAL WORKER, A CERTIFIED SOCIAL WORKER, OR A CERTIFIED SOCIAL WORKER–CLINICAL LICENSED BY THE STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS.

1-802.

(A) THE OFFICE OF MINORITY HEALTH AND HEALTH DISPARITIES SHALL PROVIDE TO EACH BOARD A LIST OF RECOMMENDED COURSES IN CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC COMPETENCY, HEALTH DISPARITIES, AND HEALTH LITERACY.

(B) EACH BOARD SHALL:

(1) POST THE LIST OF RECOMMENDED COURSES PROVIDED TO THE BOARD UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION PROMINENTLY ON THE BOARD’S WEB SITE;

(2) PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT THE RECOMMENDED COURSES TO HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS AT THE TIME OF RENEWAL OF LICENSURE; AND

(3) ADVERTISE THE AVAILABILITY OF THE RECOMMENDED COURSES IN NEWSLETTERS AND ANY OTHER MEDIA PUBLISHED BY THE BOARD.

~~AN APPLICANT OR A HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL, AS A CONDITION OF INITIAL LICENSURE OR RENEWAL OF LICENSURE, SHALL PROVIDE TO THE APPROPRIATE BOARD EVIDENCE THAT THE APPLICANT OR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE BOARD FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION IN HEALTH CARE DISPARITIES, CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC COMPETENCY, AND HEALTH LITERACY.~~

~~1-803.~~

~~(A) EACH BOARD, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE OFFICE OF MINORITY HEALTH AND HEALTH DISPARITIES AND OTHER STATE EXPERTS, SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS REQUIRING AN APPLICANT OR A HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL, AS A CONDITION OF LICENSURE OR RENEWAL OF LICENSURE, TO DOCUMENT PARTICIPATION IN CONTINUING EDUCATION IN HEALTH CARE DISPARITIES, CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC COMPETENCY, AND HEALTH LITERACY.~~

~~(B) THE REGULATIONS ADOPTED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION SHALL INCLUDE:~~

~~(1) THE NUMBER OF HOURS OF CONTINUING EDUCATION IN HEALTH CARE DISPARITIES, CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC COMPETENCY, AND HEALTH LITERACY TO BE REQUIRED AS A CONDITION OF LICENSURE OR RENEWAL OF LICENSURE; AND~~

~~(2) THE CRITERIA TO BE USED BY A BOARD IN DETERMINING WHETHER TO GRANT AN APPLICANT OR A HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL A WAIVER FROM THE CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENT UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, INCLUDING DEMONSTRATION TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE BOARD THAT THE APPLICANT OR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL HAS ATTAINED EXPERIENCE THAT IS SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT TO THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF HOURS OF CONTINUING EDUCATION IN HEALTH CARE DISPARITIES, CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC COMPETENCY, AND HEALTH LITERACY.~~

~~(C) IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT THE REGULATIONS ADOPTED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION REQUIRE THAT 5% TO 10% OF THE TOTAL REQUIRED CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS BE IN HEALTH CARE DISPARITIES, CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC COMPETENCY, AND HEALTH LITERACY.~~

~~1-804.~~

~~(A) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2016, EACH BOARD, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE OFFICE OF MINORITY HEALTH AND HEALTH DISPARITIES, SHALL APPROVE ONE OR MORE CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES ADDRESSING HEALTH CARE DISPARITIES, CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC COMPETENCY, AND HEALTH LITERACY.~~

~~(B) A COURSE APPROVED BY A BOARD UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION SHALL INCLUDE INSTRUCTION IN ADDRESSING RACIAL, ETHNIC, AND GENDER BASED DISPARITIES IN HEALTH CARE TREATMENT DECISIONS.~~

~~(C) A BOARD MAY APPROVE A COURSE THAT IS INCLUDED IN A CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM CERTIFIED BY A PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION OR SIMILAR ENTITY.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2015.

Approved by the Governor, May 12, 2015.