

Chapter 99

(House Bill 185)

AN ACT concerning

State Board of Physicians – Licensed Physicians – Continuing Education Requirements

FOR the purpose of prohibiting the State Board of Physicians from establishing a continuing education requirement that every licensed physician complete a specific course or program as a condition to the renewal of a license; and generally relating to continuing education requirements for licensed physicians in the State.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Health Occupations
Section 14–316(a), (b), (c), and (e)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2014 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Health Occupations
Section 14–316(d)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2014 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

Article – Health Occupations

14–316.

(a) (1) The Board shall provide for the term and renewal of licenses under this section.

(2) The term of a license may not be more than 3 years.

(3) A license expires at the end of its term, unless the license is renewed for a term as provided by the Board.

(b) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, at least 1 month before the license expires, the Board shall send to the licensee, by electronic or first-class mail to the last known electronic or physical address of the licensee:

(i) A renewal notice that states:

1. The date on which the current license expires;
2. The date by which the renewal application must be received by the Board for the renewal to be issued and mailed before the license expires; and
3. The amount of the renewal fee; and

(ii) A blank panel data sheet supplied by the Health Care Alternative Dispute Resolution Office.

(2) If the Board chooses to send renewal notices exclusively by electronic mail under paragraph (1) of this subsection, the Board shall send a renewal notice by first-class mail to a licensee on request of the licensee.

(c) Before the license expires, the licensee periodically may renew it for an additional term, if the licensee:

- (1) Otherwise is entitled to be licensed;
- (2) Pays to the Board a renewal fee set by the Board; and
- (3) Submits to the Board:
 - (i) A renewal application on the form that the Board requires; and
 - (ii) Satisfactory evidence of compliance with any continuing education requirements set under this section for license renewal.

(d) (1) In addition to any other qualifications and requirements established by the Board, the Board may establish continuing education requirements as a condition to the renewal of licenses under this section.

(2) In establishing these requirements, the Board shall evaluate existing methods, devices, and programs in use among the various medical specialties and other recognized medical groups.

(3) The Board shall adopt regulations that allow a licensee seeking renewal to receive up to 5 continuing education credits per renewal period for providing uncompensated, voluntary medical services during each renewal period.

(4) The Board may not establish or enforce these requirements if they would so reduce the number of physicians in a community as to jeopardize the availability of adequate medical care in that community.

(5) THE BOARD MAY NOT ESTABLISH A CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENT THAT EVERY LICENSEE COMPLETE A SPECIFIC COURSE OR PROGRAM AS A CONDITION TO THE RENEWAL OF A LICENSE UNDER THIS SECTION.

[(5)] (6) The Board may impose a civil penalty of up to \$100 per continuing medical education credit in lieu of a sanction under § 14-404 of this title, for a first offense, for the failure of a licensee to obtain the continuing medical education credits required by the Board.

(e) The Board shall renew the license of each licensee who meets the requirements of this section.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2016.

Approved by the Governor, April 12, 2016.