

By: Branch

H.B. No. 2680

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to services provided by health care practitioners to charities, free health clinics, and medically underserved areas.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subtitle A, Title 3, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Chapter 112 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 112. GENERAL LICENSING REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO MULTIPLE HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 112.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Health care practitioner" means an individual issued a license, certificate, registration, title, permit, or other authorization to engage in a health care profession.

(2) "Licensing entity" means a department, commission, board, office, authority, or other agency of the state that regulates activities and persons under this title.

Sec. 112.002. APPLICABILITY. This chapter applies only to licensing entities and health care practitioners under Subtitles B, C, D, E, F, and K.

[Sections 112.003-112.050 reserved for expansion]

SUBCHAPTER B. SERVICES PROVIDED TO CHARITIES, FREE HEALTH CARE CLINICS, AND MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREAS

Sec. 112.051. REDUCED LICENSE REQUIREMENTS FOR RETIRED HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS PERFORMING CHARITY WORK. (a) Each

1 licensing entity shall adopt rules providing for reduced fees and
2 continuing education requirements for a retired health care
3 practitioner whose only practice is voluntary charity care.

4 (b) The licensing entity by rule shall define voluntary
5 charity care.

6 Sec. 112.052. INDIGENT PATIENT CARE. A licensing entity
7 may adopt rules regarding the regulation of health care
8 practitioners who provide free health care to indigent patients at
9 health clinics.

10 Sec. 112.053. INSURANCE. A licensing entity may adopt
11 rules regarding insurance requirements for health care
12 practitioners who provide voluntary charity care under this
13 subchapter.

14 Sec. 112.054. MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREAS. A licensing
15 entity may adopt rules to promote the provision of health care in
16 medically underserved areas.

17 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
18 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
19 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
20 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
21 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.