

# STATE OF NEW YORK

4360

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

February 4, 2025

Introduced by Sens. BAILEY, RIVERA -- read twice and ordered printed,  
and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Finance

AN ACT to amend the education law and the public health law, in relation to requiring cultural awareness and competence training for all medical professionals; to amend the public health law, in relation to a public health education program; to amend the insurance law, in relation to requiring health maintenance organizations to provide funding for such cultural awareness and competence training; and making an appropriation therefor

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new section 6505-f  
2 to read as follows:

3 § 6505-f. Course work or training in cultural awareness and compe-  
4 tence. 1. Every physician, physician assistant, dentist, registered  
5 nurse, licensed practical nurse, podiatrist, optometrist and dental  
6 hygienist practicing in the state shall, on or before July first, two  
7 thousand twenty-five and every two years thereafter, complete course  
8 work or training appropriate to the professional's practice approved by  
9 the department regarding cultural awareness and competence in the non-  
10 discriminatory provision of medical services, in accordance with regula-  
11 tory standards promulgated by the department, in consultation with the  
12 department of health. The department shall also consult with organiza-  
13 tions representative of professions, institutions and those with exper-  
14 tise in cultural awareness and competence with respect to the regulatory  
15 standards promulgated pursuant to this section.

16 2. Each such professional shall document to the department at the time  
17 of registration commencing with the first registration after July first,  
18 two thousand twenty-five that the professional has completed course work  
19 or training in accordance with this section; provided, however, that a  
20 professional subject to the provisions of paragraph (f) of subdivision

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 one of section twenty-eight hundred five-k of the public health law  
2 shall not be required to so document.

3 3. The department shall provide an exemption from this requirement to  
4 anyone who requests such an exemption and who (i) clearly demonstrates  
5 to the department's satisfaction that there would be no need for them to  
6 complete such course work or training because of the nature of their  
7 practice; or (ii) that they have completed course work or training  
8 deemed by the department to be equivalent to the course work or training  
9 approved by the department pursuant to this section.

10 § 2. Paragraph (f) of subdivision 1 of section 2805-k of the public  
11 health law, as amended by chapter 477 of the laws of 2008, is amended to  
12 read as follows:

13 (f) Documentation that the physician, dentist or podiatrist has  
14 completed the course work or training as mandated by section two hundred  
15 thirty-nine of this chapter or section six thousand five hundred five-b  
16 of the education law or section sixty-five hundred five-e of the educa-  
17 tion law. A hospital or facility shall not grant or renew professional  
18 privileges or association to a physician, dentist, or podiatrist who has  
19 not completed such course work or training.

20 § 3. Section 206 of the public health law is amended by adding a new  
21 subdivision 32 to read as follows:

22 32. The commissioner is authorized and directed to develop and imple-  
23 ment a statewide, community-based public health education program to  
24 reduce the root causes of disparities in minority health care. Such  
25 education program shall be aimed at health care professionals, patients  
26 and patient advocates. The commissioner and the department may consult  
27 with the appropriate professionals in developing and implementing such a  
28 program. The commissioner shall administer any funds appropriated or  
29 otherwise provided by law for such health education program.

30 § 4. Paragraph 3 of subsection (d) of section 4310 of the insurance  
31 law, as amended by chapter 266 of the laws of 1986, is amended and a new  
32 paragraph 4 is added to read as follows:

33 (3) every such corporation shall, after the first full calendar year  
34 of doing business, accumulate and maintain a statutory reserve fund  
35 which shall from time to time during each calendar year be increased in  
36 an amount equal to at least five per centum of the net premium income of  
37 such corporation during such whole calendar year until such reserve  
38 shall be at least equal to fifty thousand dollars and thereafter such  
39 reserve shall be accumulated and maintained in the manner prescribed[+];

40 (4) each corporation's statutory reserve fund shall be increased at  
41 the end of the calendar year to the extent deemed necessary by the  
42 superintendent, in consultation with the commissioner of health, to  
43 provide capital necessary to establish and maintain the health care  
44 provider training in cultural awareness and competence, as provided by  
45 section two hundred six of the public health law and section six thou-  
46 sand five hundred five-e of the education law.

47 § 5. The sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000), or so much  
48 thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated to the department of  
49 health out of any moneys in the state treasury in the general fund to  
50 the credit of the state purposes account, not otherwise appropriated,  
51 and made immediately available, for such purpose of carrying out the  
52 provisions of section three of this act. Such moneys shall be payable on  
53 the audit and warrant of the comptroller on vouchers certified or  
54 approved by the commissioner of health, or their duly designated repre-  
55 sentative in the manner prescribed by law. No expenditure shall be made  
56 from this appropriation until a certificate of approval of availability

1 shall have been issued by the director of the budget and filed with the  
2 state comptroller and a copy filed with the chair of the senate finance  
3 committee and the chair of the assembly ways and means committee. Such  
4 certificate may be amended from time to time by the director of the  
5 budget and a copy of each such amendment shall be filed with the state  
6 comptroller, the chair of the senate finance committee and the chair of  
7 the assembly ways and means committee.  
8 § 6. This act shall take effect immediately.