

6378

I N   S E N A T E

January 21, 2014

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Introduced by Sen. CARLUCCI -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law, the education law and the insurance law, in relation to establishing a health care practitioner hygienic dress code; and providing for the repeal of certain provisions upon expiration thereof

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1     Section 1. Article 2 of the public health law is amended by adding a  
2     new title 6 to read as follows:

3                                   T I T L E   6

4                   H E A L T H   C A R E   P R A C T I T I O N E R   H Y G I E N I C

5                                   D R E S S   C O D E

6     SECTION 266. HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER HYGIENIC DRESS CODE.

7     S   266. HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER HYGIENIC DRESS CODE. 1. DEFINITIONS.  
8     THE FOLLOWING WORDS OR PHRASES AS USED IN THIS TITLE SHALL HAVE THE  
9     FOLLOWING MEANINGS:

10    (A) "CONTINUING EDUCATION" SHALL MEAN ALL PROFESSIONAL CONTINUING  
11    EDUCATION PROGRAMS REQUIRED EITHER BY STATE LAW, OR BY PROFESSIONAL  
12    ASSOCIATIONS AUTHORIZED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO MONITOR THE  
13    REQUIREMENTS OF LICENSURE OR CERTIFICATION AND TO CONDUCT CONTINUING  
14    EDUCATION REQUIRED TO BE COMPLETED BY A HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER.

15    (B) "COUNCIL" SHALL MEAN THE STATE HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER HYGIENIC  
16    DRESS CODE COUNCIL ESTABLISHED BY SUBDIVISION TWO OF THIS SECTION.

17    (C) "HEALTH CARE FACILITY" SHALL MEAN AND INCLUDE A HOSPITAL AND RESI-  
18    DENTIAL HEALTH CARE FACILITY AS DEFINED IN SECTION TWENTY-EIGHT HUNDRED  
19    ONE OF THIS CHAPTER, AND ANY SETTING IN WHICH A HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER  
20    REGULARLY PRACTICES HIS OR HER PROFESSION.

21    (D) "HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER" SHALL MEAN ANY PERSON LICENSED AS A  
22    PHYSICIAN PURSUANT TO ARTICLE ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-ONE OF THE EDUCATION  
23    LAW, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT OR SPECIALIST ASSISTANT PURSUANT TO ARTICLE ONE  
24    HUNDRED THIRTY-ONE-B OF THE EDUCATION LAW, NURSE PURSUANT TO ARTICLE ONE  
25    HUNDRED THIRTY-NINE OF THE EDUCATION LAW, OR MIDWIFE PURSUANT TO ARTICLE  
26    ONE HUNDRED FORTY OF THE EDUCATION LAW.

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

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1 2. STATE HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER HYGIENIC DRESS CODE COUNCIL. (A) THE  
2 STATE HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER HYGIENIC DRESS CODE COUNCIL IS HEREBY  
3 ESTABLISHED IN THE DEPARTMENT TO BE AN EXPERT PANEL TO ADVISE THE  
4 COMMISSIONER AND THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION ON: (I) THE BEST PRAC-  
5 TICES RELATED TO MITIGATING AND ELIMINATING THE SPREAD OF DISEASE,  
6 INFECTION AND BACTERIA TO PATIENTS, VISITORS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC IN  
7 HEALTH CARE FACILITIES BY MEANS OF THE UNHYGIENIC CLOTHING, JEWELRY AND  
8 HEALTH CARE FACILITY IDENTIFICATION TAGS WORN BY HEALTH CARE PRACTITION-  
9 ERS AND THE CLEANING PERSONNEL OF SUCH FACILITIES, (II) THE PROMOTION OF  
10 BETTER AND COORDINATED POLICIES TO ENSURE BETTER HYGIENIC PRACTICES IN  
11 HEALTH CARE FACILITIES, AND (III) THE DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDELINES TO  
12 ASSIST THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IN ESTABLISHING MATERIALS AND CURRICULA  
13 TO BE USED IN PROVIDING CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS TO HEALTH CARE  
14 PRACTITIONERS ON THE USE OF A HYGIENIC DRESS CODE TO MINIMIZE THE SPREAD  
15 OF DISEASE, INFECTION AND BACTERIA TO PATIENTS, VISITORS AND THE GENERAL  
16 PUBLIC.

17 (B) THE COUNCIL SHALL BE COMPOSED OF TWENTY-FIVE MEMBERS APPOINTED BY  
18 THE COMMISSIONER. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL SEEK RECOMMENDATIONS FOR  
19 APPOINTMENTS FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION AND THE SUPERINTENDENT  
20 OF FINANCIAL SERVICES. THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL SHALL INCLUDE  
21 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VARIOUS PROFESSIONS WITHIN THE DEFINITION OF  
22 HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER, THE VARIOUS FACILITIES AND SETTINGS WITHIN THE  
23 DEFINITION OF HEALTH CARE FACILITY, EDUCATORS OF HEALTH CARE PRACTITION-  
24 ERS, CLEANING AND STERILIZATION SERVICES FOR HEALTH CARE FACILITIES,  
25 PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES, AND INSURERS AND CORPORATIONS PROVIDING HEALTH  
26 CARE COVERAGE. THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL SHALL BE A MEMBER THEREOF AS IS  
27 SO DESIGNATED BY THE COMMISSIONER.

28 (C) THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL SHALL HAVE EXPERTISE IN THE MAINTENANCE  
29 AND CREATION OF SANITARY AND HYGIENIC CONDITIONS IN THE TREATMENT OF  
30 PATIENTS BY HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS AND IN HEALTH CARE FACILITIES. THE  
31 TERM OF OFFICE OF SUCH MEMBERS SHALL BE FOUR YEARS. THE MEMBERS OF THE  
32 COUNCIL SHALL RECEIVE NO COMPENSATION FOR THEIR SERVICES, BUT SHALL BE  
33 ALLOWED THEIR ACTUAL AND NECESSARY EXPENSES IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR  
34 DUTIES.

35 (D) THE COUNCIL SHALL MEET UPON THE CALL OF THE COMMISSIONER OR THE  
36 CHAIR. THE COUNCIL MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS CONSISTENT WITH THIS SECTION.

37 (E) THE COMMISSIONER SHALL DESIGNATE SUCH EMPLOYEE AND PROVIDE FOR  
38 OTHER RESOURCES OF THE DEPARTMENT AS MAY BE REASONABLY NECESSARY TO  
39 PROVIDE SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL.

40 (F) THE COUNCIL MAY PROVIDE TECHNICAL INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE TO  
41 HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS AND HEALTH CARE FACILITIES ON THE LATEST AND  
42 BEST PRACTICES AND STRATEGIES RELATED TO MITIGATING AND ELIMINATING THE  
43 SPREAD OF DISEASE, INFECTION AND BACTERIA DURING THE COURSE OF TREATMENT  
44 OF PATIENTS AS IT RELATES TO THE USE OF HYGIENIC HEALTH CARE PRACTITION-  
45 ER CLOTHING, ATTIRE AND A DRESS CODE.

46 3. POLICIES TO BE CONSIDERED, EXAMINED AND POSSIBLY ADVANCED AFTER  
47 EVIDENCE-BASED REVIEW BY THE COUNCIL. THE COUNCIL SHALL CONSIDER AND  
48 EXAMINE THE FOLLOWING POLICIES AND GUIDELINES IN THE ADOPTION OF RULES  
49 AND REGULATIONS:

50 (A) THE PROVISION OF EDUCATION AND INSTRUCTION TO PATIENTS AND HEALTH  
51 CARE PRACTITIONERS ON HOW ENHANCED SANITARY AND HYGIENIC POLICIES,  
52 INCLUDING THE USE OF HYGIENIC HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER CLOTHING, ATTIRE  
53 AND A DRESS CODE, CAN HELP TO REDUCE THE RISK OF CROSS-INFECTION;

54 (B) ENCOURAGING HEALTH CARE FACILITIES TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF  
55 CLEAN SCRUBS, OTHER ARTICLES OF CLOTHING AND HEALTH CARE FACILITY IDEN-

1 TIFICATION TAGS TO HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS TO ENSURE FREQUENT CHANGES  
2 THEREOF;

3 (C) ENCOURAGING HEALTH CARE FACILITIES TO PROVIDE CHANGING ROOMS, AND  
4 INSTRUCTION ON HOW TO APPROPRIATELY WASH CLOTHING WORN BY HEALTH CARE  
5 PRACTITIONERS;

6 (D) THE WEARING OF PATHOGEN-RESISTANT SCRUBS AND COATS, APRONS OR  
7 SLIPS MADE OF PLASTIC OR WICKING MATERIALS, AND DOUBLE GLOVES;

8 (E) THE ADOPTION OF A PROHIBITION ON THE WEARING OUTSIDE OF A HEALTH  
9 CARE FACILITY BY HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS OF CLOTHING WORN DURING  
10 TREATMENT OF PATIENTS; AND

11 (F) CONSIDERATION OF ALTERATIONS IN MEDICAID AND PRIVATE PAYOR  
12 REIMBURSEMENT RATES AND PRACTICES TO ENCOURAGE MORE OPTIMUM SANITARY AND  
13 HYGIENIC CONDITIONS IN HEALTH CARE FACILITIES.

14 4. HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER HYGIENIC RESOURCE CENTERS. THE COMMISSION-  
15 ER, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE COUNCIL, MAY DESIGNATE A HEALTH CARE PRAC-  
16 TITIONER HYGIENIC RESOURCE CENTER OR CENTERS. SUCH RESOURCE CENTER MAY  
17 BE STATEWIDE OR REGIONAL, AND SHALL ACT AS A SOURCE OF TECHNICAL  
18 SUPPORT, INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOR HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS AND  
19 HEALTH CARE FACILITIES ON THE LATEST STRATEGIES AND BEST PRACTICES WITH  
20 REGARD TO ESTABLISHING SANITARY AND HYGIENIC CONDITIONS FOR THE TREAT-  
21 MENT OF PATIENTS. THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE COUNCIL, MAY  
22 CONTRACT WITH NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS OR ASSOCIATIONS TO ESTABLISH  
23 AND MANAGE SUCH RESOURCE CENTERS. SUCH RESOURCE CENTERS MAY CHARGE A FEE  
24 TO HELP OFFSET THE COST OF PROVIDING SUCH SERVICES.

25 5. CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS. THE COUNCIL, IN  
26 CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND HEALTH  
27 CARE PRACTITIONER PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, SHALL DEVELOP, COMPILE AND  
28 PUBLISH INFORMATION AND COURSE MATERIALS ON SANITARY AND HYGIENIC PRAC-  
29 TICES THAT SHOULD BE FOLLOWED BY HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS AND HEALTH  
30 CARE FACILITIES TO MITIGATE AND ELIMINATE THE SPREAD OF DISEASE,  
31 INFECTION AND BACTERIA TO PATIENTS, VISITORS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC BY  
32 MEANS OF THE CLOTHING, JEWELRY AND HEALTH CARE FACILITY IDENTIFICATION  
33 TAGS WORN BY HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS AND THE CLEANING PERSONNEL OF  
34 SUCH FACILITIES. IN ADDITION, WITHIN TWO YEARS OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF  
35 THIS TITLE, THE COUNCIL SHALL MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EDUCATION  
36 DEPARTMENT FOR THE COURSE WORK, TRAINING AND CURRICULUM TO BE INCLUDED  
37 IN THE CONTINUING EDUCATION ON THE BEST PRACTICES, STRATEGIES AND  
38 APPROACHES RELATED TO MITIGATING AND ELIMINATING THE SPREAD OF DISEASE,  
39 INFECTION AND BACTERIA TO PATIENTS, VISITORS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC IN  
40 HEALTH CARE FACILITIES BY MEANS OF THE CLOTHING, JEWELRY AND HEALTH CARE  
41 FACILITY IDENTIFICATION TAGS WORN BY HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS AND THE  
42 CLEANING PERSONNEL OF SUCH FACILITIES.

43 6. REPORT. ON OR BEFORE MARCH FIRST OF EACH EVEN NUMBERED YEAR, THE  
44 COUNCIL SHALL SUBMIT TO THE GOVERNOR, THE COMMISSIONER, THE COMMISSIONER  
45 OF EDUCATION, THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, THE SPEAKER OF THE  
46 ASSEMBLY, THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE SENATE, THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE  
47 ASSEMBLY, AND THE CHAIRS OF THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES ON HEALTH  
48 A REPORT ON ITS ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE  
49 RELATING TO SANITARY AND HYGIENIC CONDITIONS IN HEALTH CARE FACILITIES.  
50 SUCH REPORT MAY ALSO INCLUDE SUCH LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS AS IT DEEMS  
51 NECESSARY TO MORE EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS TITLE.

52 S 2. Paragraphs b and c of subdivision 3 of section 6507 of the educa-  
53 tion law, as added by chapter 987 of the laws of 1971, are amended and a  
54 new paragraph d is added to read as follows:

55 b. Review qualifications in connection with licensing requirements;  
56 [and]

1 c. Provide for licensing examinations and reexaminations[.]; AND

2 D. (I) ESTABLISH STANDARDS FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR HEALTH CARE  
3 PRACTITIONERS ON THE BEST PRACTICES, STRATEGIES AND APPROACHES RELATED  
4 TO MITIGATING AND ELIMINATING THE SPREAD OF DISEASE, INFECTION AND  
5 BACTERIA TO PATIENTS, VISITORS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC IN HEALTH CARE  
6 FACILITIES BY MEANS OF THE CLOTHING, JEWELRY AND HEALTH CARE FACILITY  
7 IDENTIFICATION TAGS WORN BY HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS AND THE CLEANING  
8 PERSONNEL OF SUCH FACILITIES. IN PROMULGATION OF SUCH STANDARDS, THE  
9 DEPARTMENT AND THE APPROPRIATE BOARD OF EACH SUCH PROFESSION SHALL  
10 CONSIDER AND, TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS  
11 OF THE STATE HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER HYGIENIC DRESS CODE COUNCIL.

12 (II) FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS PARAGRAPH:

13 (A) "HEALTH CARE FACILITY" SHALL MEAN AND INCLUDE A HOSPITAL AND A  
14 RESIDENTIAL HEALTH CARE FACILITY AS DEFINED IN SECTION TWENTY-EIGHT  
15 HUNDRED ONE OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH LAW, AND ANY SETTING IN WHICH A HEALTH  
16 CARE PRACTITIONER REGULARLY PRACTICES HIS OR HER PROFESSION.

17 (B) "HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER" SHALL MEAN ANY PERSON LICENSED AS A  
18 PHYSICIAN PURSUANT TO ARTICLE ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-ONE OF THIS TITLE,  
19 PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT OR SPECIALIST ASSISTANT PURSUANT TO ARTICLE ONE  
20 HUNDRED THIRTY-ONE-B OF THIS TITLE, NURSE PURSUANT TO ARTICLE ONE  
21 HUNDRED THIRTY-NINE OF THIS TITLE, OR MIDWIFE PURSUANT TO ARTICLE ONE  
22 HUNDRED FORTY OF THIS TITLE.

23 S 3. Section 2343 of the insurance law is amended by adding a new  
24 subsection (f) to read as follows:

25 (F) THE SUPERINTENDENT SHALL APPROVE AND IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS TO ENCOUR-  
26 AGE HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS, HEALTH CARE FACILITIES AND MEDICAL MALPRAC-  
27 TICE INSURERS TO PARTICIPATE IN HEALTH CARE PROVIDER HYGIENIC DRESS CODE  
28 PROGRAMS. SUCH PROGRAMS MAY INCLUDE, BUT SHALL BE LIMITED TO, ENHANCED  
29 COVERAGE LEVELS, REDUCTIONS IN DEDUCTIBLE LEVELS OR ACTUARIALLY APPRO-  
30 PRIATE PREMIUM REDUCTION FOR INSURED HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND HEALTH  
31 CARE FACILITIES WHICH HAVE IMPLEMENTED A SUCCESSFUL HEALTH CARE PRACTI-  
32 TIONER DRESS CODE PROGRAM, PURSUANT TO TITLE SIX OF ARTICLE TWO OF THE  
33 PUBLIC HEALTH LAW, WHICH IS APPROVED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH.

34 S 4. Section 3436 of the insurance law, as added by chapter 266 of the  
35 laws of 1986, is amended by adding a new subsection (f) to read as  
36 follows:

37 (F) AN INSURER WHICH ISSUES POLICIES FOR PRIMARY LEVELS OF MEDICAL  
38 MALPRACTICE INSURANCE SHALL UPON THE ISSUANCE OR RENEWAL THEREOF,  
39 PROVIDE FOR PROGRAMS TO ENCOURAGE HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS, HEALTH CARE  
40 FACILITIES AND MEDICAL MALPRACTICE INSURERS TO PARTICIPATE IN HEALTH  
41 CARE PROVIDER HYGIENIC DRESS CODE PROGRAMS. SUCH PROGRAMS MAY INCLUDE,  
42 BUT SHALL BE LIMITED TO, ENHANCED COVERAGE LEVELS, REDUCTIONS IN DEDUCT-  
43 IBLE LEVELS OR ACTUARIALLY APPROPRIATE PREMIUM REDUCTION FOR INSURED  
44 HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND HEALTH CARE FACILITIES WHICH HAVE IMPLEMENTED  
45 A SUCCESSFUL HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER DRESS CODE PROGRAM, PURSUANT TO  
46 TITLE SIX OF ARTICLE TWO OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH LAW, WHICH IS APPROVED BY  
47 THE COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH.

48 S 5. Section 5505 of the insurance law is amended by adding a new  
49 subsection (e) to read as follows:

50 (E) THE ASSOCIATION'S RATES, RATING PLANS AND RATING CLASSIFICATIONS  
51 SHALL PROVIDE FOR PROGRAMS TO ENCOURAGE HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS, HEALTH  
52 CARE FACILITIES AND MEDICAL MALPRACTICE INSURERS TO PARTICIPATE IN  
53 HEALTH CARE PROVIDER HYGIENIC DRESS CODE PROGRAMS. SUCH PROGRAMS MAY  
54 INCLUDE, BUT SHALL BE LIMITED TO, ENHANCED COVERAGE LEVELS, REDUCTIONS  
55 IN DEDUCTIBLE LEVELS OR ACTUARIALLY APPROPRIATE PREMIUM DISCOUNTS FOR  
56 HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND HEALTH CARE FACILITIES WHICH HAVE IMPLEMENTED

1 A SUCCESSFUL HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER DRESS CODE PROGRAM, PURSUANT TO  
2 TITLE SIX OF ARTICLE TWO OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH LAW, WHICH IS APPROVED BY  
3 THE COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH.

4 S 6. This act shall take effect on the first of January next succeed-  
5 ing the date on which it shall have become a law and section one of this  
6 act shall expire and be deemed repealed January 1, 2023.