STATE OF NEW YORK

7357--A

IN SENATE

January 9, 2018

Introduced by Sen. DeFRANCISCO -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Health -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the public health law and the insurance law, in relation to improper practices relating to staff membership or professional privileges of a physician and board certification

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

Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 2801-b of the public health law, as amended by chapter 605 of the laws of 2008, is amended to read as follows:

1. It shall be an improper practice for the governing body of a hospital to refuse to act upon an application for staff membership or professional privileges or to deny or withhold from a physician, podiatrist, optometrist, dentist or licensed midwife staff membership or professional privileges in a hospital, or to exclude or expel a physician, podiatrist, optometrist, dentist or licensed midwife from staff membership in a hospital or curtail, terminate or diminish in any way a physician's, podiatrist's, optometrist's, dentist's or licensed midwife's professional privileges in a hospital, without stating the reasons therefor, or if the reasons stated are unrelated to standards of patient care, patient welfare, the objectives of the institution or the character or competency of the applicant. It shall be an improper practice for a governing body of a hospital to refuse to act upon an application or to deny or to withhold staff membership or professional privileges to a podiatrist based solely upon a practitioner's category of licensure. **It shall be an improper practice for a governing body of a hospital to refuse to act upon an application or to deny or to withhold staff membership or professional privileges of a physician who was previously board-certified and who has not maintained such certification solely because such physician is not board-certified.**

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

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§ 2. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 1 of section 4406-d of the public health law, as amended by chapter 425 of the laws of 2016, is amended to read as follows:

(a) A health care plan shall, upon request, make available and disclose to health care professionals written application procedures and minimum qualification requirements which a health care professional must meet in order to be considered by the health care plan. The plan shall consult with appropriately qualified health care professionals in developing its qualification requirements. A health care plan shall complete review of the health care professional's application to participate in the in-network portion of the health care plan's network and shall, within sixty days of receiving a health care professional's completed application to participate in the health care plan's network, notify the health care professional as to: (i) whether he or she is credentialed; or (ii) whether additional time is necessary to make a determination because of a failure of a third party to provide necessary documentation. In such instances where additional time is necessary because of a lack of necessary documentation, a health plan shall make every effort to obtain such information as soon as possible and shall make a final determination within twenty-one days of receiving the necessary documentation. **A health care plan may not refuse to approve an application from a physician, who was previously board-certified and who has not maintained such certification, to participate in the in-network portion of the health care plan's network solely because such physician is not board-certified.**

§ 3. Paragraph 1 of subsection (a) of section 4803 of the insurance law, as amended by chapter 425 of the laws of 2016, is amended to read as follows:

(1) An insurer which offers a managed care product shall, upon request, make available and disclose to health care professionals written application procedures and minimum qualification requirements which a health care professional must meet in order to be considered by the insurer for participation in the in-network benefits portion of the insurer's network for the managed care product. The insurer shall consult with appropriately qualified health care professionals in developing its qualification requirements for participation in the in-network benefits portion of the insurer's network for the managed care product. An insurer shall complete review of the health care professional's application to participate in the in-network portion of the insurer's network and, within sixty days of receiving a health care professional's completed application to participate in the insurer's network, will notify the health care professional as to: (A) whether he or she is credentialed; or (B) whether additional time is necessary to make a determination because of a failure of a third party to provide necessary documentation. In such instances where additional time is necessary because of a lack of necessary documentation, an insurer shall make every effort to obtain such information as soon as possible and shall make a final determination within twenty-one days of receiving the necessary documentation. **An insurer may not refuse to approve an application from a physician, who was previously board-certified and who has not maintained such certification, for participation in the in-network portion of the insurer's network solely because such physician is not board-certified.**

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately.