

# STATE OF NEW YORK

---

4931

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

March 3, 2017

---

Introduced by Sen. DIAZ -- 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; 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-d  
2 to read as follows:

3 § 6505-d. 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 nineteen and every two years thereafter, complete course work  
8 or training appropriate to the professional's practice approved by the  
9 department regarding cultural awareness and competence in the non-dis-  
10 criminatory provision of medical services, in accordance with regulatory  
11 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 nineteen that the professional has completed course work or  
19 training in accordance with this section, provided, however, that a  
20 professional subject to the provisions of paragraph (f) of subdivision  
21 one of section twenty-eight hundred five-k of the public health law  
22 shall not be required to so document.

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

LBD07131-01-7

1     3. The department shall provide an exemption from this requirement to  
2     anyone who requests such an exemption and who (i) clearly demonstrates  
3     to the department's satisfaction that there would be no need for him or  
4     her to complete such course work or training because of the nature of  
5     his or her practice or (ii) that he or she has completed course work or  
6     training deemed by the department to be equivalent to the course work or  
7     training approved by the department pursuant to this section.

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

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

18    § 3. Section 206 of the public health law is amended by adding a new  
19    subdivision 31 to read as follows:

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

28    § 4. The sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000), or so much  
29    thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated to the department of  
30    health out of any moneys in the state treasury in the general fund to  
31    the credit of the state purposes account, not otherwise appropriated,  
32    and made immediately available, for such purpose of carrying out the  
33    provisions of section three of this act. Such moneys shall be payable on  
34    the audit and warrant of the comptroller on vouchers certified or  
35    approved by the commissioner of health, or his or her duly designated  
36    representative in the manner prescribed by law. No expenditure shall be  
37    made from this appropriation until a certificate of approval of avail-  
38    ability shall have been issued by the director of the budget and filed  
39    with the state comptroller and a copy filed with the chairman of the  
40    senate finance committee and the chairman of the assembly ways and means  
41    committee. Such certificate may be amended from time to time by the  
42    director of the budget and a copy of each such amendment shall be filed  
43    with the state comptroller, the chairman of the senate finance committee  
44    and the chairman of the assembly ways and means committee.

45    § 5. This act shall take effect immediately.