

# STATE OF NEW YORK

4515

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

February 4, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. RODRIGUEZ -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. COOK,  
SIMON -- read once and referred to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law and the public health law, in relation  
to requiring cultural awareness and competence training for medical  
professionals

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assem-  
bly, 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 nurse prac-  
6 titioner practicing in the state who provides direct medical services to  
7 patients in this state shall, on or before July first, two thousand  
8 twenty-two and every registration period thereafter, complete course  
9 work or training regarding cultural awareness and competence in the  
10 provision of medical services in accordance with regulated standards  
11 promulgated by the department, in consultation with the department of  
12 health. Such cultural awareness and competence course work or training  
13 shall require two hours of course work or training encompassing minority  
14 healthcare issues including ethnic, religious, linguistic, sexual orien-  
15 tation and gender identity healthcare issues and their impact on minori-  
16 ty healthcare. In promulgating regulatory standards pursuant to this  
17 section the department is advised to consult with organizations repre-  
18 sentative of professions, institutions and those with expertise in  
19 cultural awareness and competence.

20 2. As used in this section, "acceptable formal continuing education"  
21 shall mean formal programs of learning which contribute to professional  
22 practice and which meet the standards prescribed by regulations of the  
23 commissioner. To fulfill the mandatory continuing education requirement,  
24 programs must be taken from sponsors having the facilities, equipment,

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

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1 and financial and physical resources to provide continuing education  
2 courses, approved by the department, pursuant to the regulations of the  
3 commissioner. Continuing education may be provided in an internet-based  
4 course format as approved by the department.

5 3. Each such professional shall attest to the department at the time  
6 of registration commencing with the first registration after July first,  
7 two thousand twenty-two that the professional has completed course work  
8 or training in accordance with this section.

9 4. The department shall provide an exemption from this requirement to  
10 anyone who requests such an exemption and who: (i) clearly demonstrates  
11 to the department's satisfaction that there would be no need for him or  
12 her to complete such course work or training because of the nature of  
13 his or her practice; (ii) has completed course work or training deemed  
14 by the department to be equivalent to the course work or training  
15 approved by the department pursuant to this section; (iii) has completed  
16 course work or training pertaining to cultural awareness and competence  
17 which has been incorporated as part of a risk management course offered  
18 pursuant to subsection (e) of section two thousand three hundred forty-  
19 three of the insurance law, provided that such educational content has  
20 been approved by the superintendent of financial services; or (iv) is a  
21 medical professional who is on a tour of extended active duty with the  
22 armed forces of the United States.

23 5. At the beginning of each registration period, a mandatory continu-  
24 ing education fee of five dollars shall be collected from all persons  
25 required to complete the course work and training required by this  
26 section; provided that any person obtaining an exemption pursuant to  
27 subdivision four of this section shall not be required to pay such five  
28 dollar fee. This fee shall be in addition to all other existing regis-  
29 tration fees.

30 6. The commissioner is authorized to promulgate regulations to imple-  
31 ment the provisions of this section.

32 Any person subject to the provisions of this section, who falsely  
33 attests to having completed the required course work or training shall  
34 be subject to professional misconduct as provided by subdivision twen-  
35 ty-one of section sixty-five hundred thirty of this title and subdivi-  
36 sion nine of section sixty-five hundred nine of this title.

37 § 2. Paragraph (f) of subdivision 1 of section 2805-k of the public  
38 health law, as amended by chapter 477 of the laws of 2008, is amended  
39 and a new subdivision 5 is added to read as follows:

40 (f) Documentation that the physician, dentist or podiatrist has  
41 completed the course work or training as mandated by section two hundred  
42 thirty-nine of this chapter or section [~~six thousand five~~] sixty-five  
43 hundred five-b of the education law or section sixty-five hundred five-d  
44 of the education law. A hospital or facility shall not grant or renew  
45 professional privileges or association to a physician, dentist, or  
46 podiatrist who has not completed such course work or training. A hospi-  
47 tal or facility shall not knowingly grant or renew professional privi-  
48 leges or association to anyone required to complete course work or  
49 training unless said person has attested to having taken such required  
50 course work or training.

51 5. Prior to hiring or otherwise granting privileges to a physician  
52 assistant, registered nurse, licensed practical nurse or optometrist or  
53 a hospital or facility approved pursuant to this article shall request  
54 from such person documentation that he or she has completed the course  
55 work or training as mandated by section sixty-five hundred five-d of the  
56 education law. A hospital or facility shall not hire or otherwise grant

1 privileges to a physician assistant, registered nurse, licensed practi-  
2 cal nurse or optometrist who has not completed such course work or  
3 training.

4 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.