STATE OF NEW YORK

7858

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

May 28, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. SOLAGES -- read once and referred to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to requiring the introduction of training in nutrition for physicians

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

Section 1. The public health law is amended by adding a new section 264 to read as follows:

§ 264. Coursework or training in nutrition. 1. Every physician licensed under article one hundred thirty-one of the education law shall, on or before July first, two thousand twenty-four and every four years thereafter, complete three hours of coursework or training approved by the department regarding nutrition.

2. Every physician licensed on or after July first, two thousand twenty-four under article one hundred thirty-one of the education law shall complete such coursework or training within one year of such registration and once within each four-year period thereafter.

3. The commissioner, in consultation with the department of education, shall establish standards and review and approve coursework or training in nutrition and diet and shall publish information related to such standards, coursework or training on the department's website. The department shall consult with organizations representative of professions and those with expertise in nutrition in establishing such standards.

4. Coursework or training in nutrition as required by this section may include: general nutrition throughout the lifecycle; nutrition assessment; the role of nutrition in disease prevention, management and treatment; nutrition topics related to medical specialties such as obstetrics and gynecology, cardiology, pediatrics, and oncology; food insecurity, food insecurity screenings, and the impact of food insecurity on health;

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

LBD11504-01-1

the role of dietitians and when to make referrals; and obesity treatment and prevention.

5. Existing coursework or training, including coursework or training developed by a nationally recognized health care professional, specialty, or provider association, or nationally recognized nutrition or dietician organization, may be considered in implementing this subdivision.

6. Every physician shall provide to the department documentation that demonstrates that such physician has completed the coursework or training required under this section. The department shall provide a standardized form or other streamlined process for submitting such documentation.

7. The department shall institute a procedure for application for an exemption from the nutrition training requirements of this section. The department may provide an exemption from the coursework and training required by this subdivision to any such licensed person who clearly demonstrates to the department's satisfaction that:

a. there would be no need for him or her to complete such coursework or training; or

b. he or she has completed coursework or training deemed by the department to be equivalent to the coursework or training approved by the department pursuant to this subdivision.

8. Nothing herein shall preclude such coursework or training in diet and nutrition from counting toward continuing education requirements of a nationally accredited medical board to the extent acceptable to such board.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.