



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 694

HOUSE BILL NO. 1927

By Representatives Williams, Terry, Gravitt, Mark White, Holsclaw

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 1824

By Senators Briggs, Bowling, Hensley, Kelsey

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 33; Title 56, Chapter 7 and Title 68, relative to physicians.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 33, Chapter 2, Part 4, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) For purposes of this section:

(1) "Maintenance of certification" means any process requiring periodic recertification examinations or other activities to maintain specialty medical board certification; and

(2) "Organized medical staff" means an organized body composed of individuals appointed by a facility's governing board that operates under bylaws approved by the governing body and is responsible for the quality of medical care provided to patients by the facility.

(b) Except as otherwise provided by this section, facilities licensed under this title may only differentiate between licensed physicians based on a physician's maintenance of certification in medical staff privileging and credentialing when authorized through the following process:

(1) The voting members of the facility's organized medical staff vote to adopt the differentiation; and

(2) The facility's governing body reviews and approves the action of the medical staff.

(c) An authorization described by subsection (b) may:

(1) Establish terms applicable to the facility's differentiation, including:

(A) Appropriate grandfathering provisions; and

(B) Limiting the differentiation to certain medical specialties; and

(2) Be rescinded at any time when:

(A) The voting members of the facility's organized medical staff vote to rescind the differentiating action; and

(B) The facility's governing body reviews and approves the rescinding action of the organized medical staff.

(d) Nothing in this section restricts a facility's ability to differentiate between physicians in medical staff privileging and credentialing based on a physician's maintenance of certification when:

(1) The facility's designation under law or certification or accreditation by a national certifying or accrediting organization is contingent on the facility

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requiring a specific maintenance of certification by physicians seeking staff privileges or credentialing at the facility; and

(2) The differentiation is limited to those physicians whose maintenance of certification is required for the facility's designation, certification, or accreditation as described by subdivision (d)(1).

(e) Nothing in this section requires a facility's organized medical staff or governing body to reconsider or vote to reconsider maintenance of certification differentiation or requirements made prior to July 1, 2018.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 56, Chapter 7, Part 10, is amended by adding the following as a new section to be appropriately designated:

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Continuing medical education" means board of medical examiners or board of osteopathic examination required continued postgraduate medical education intended to provide medical professionals with knowledge of new developments in the professional's field;

(2) "Maintenance of certification" means any process requiring periodic recertification examinations or other activities to maintain specialty medical board certification;

(3) "Maintenance of licensure" means the proprietary framework for physician license renewal established through the Federation of State Medical Boards or its successor organization, which includes additional periodic testing or requirements other than continuing medical education; and

(4) "Specialty medical board certification" means certification by a board that specializes in one (1) particular area of medicine and typically requires additional examinations other than the requirements of the board of medical examiners or board of osteopathic examination to practice medicine.

(b) A health insurance entity, as defined in § 56-7-109, shall not deny reimbursement to or prevent a physician licensed pursuant to title 63, chapter 6 or 9 from participating in any of the insurance entity's provider networks based solely on a physician's decision not to participate in any form of maintenance of licensure or maintenance of certification, including basing a physician's network participation on any form of maintenance of licensure tied to maintenance of certification.

(c) A health insurance entity, as defined in § 56-7-109, shall not discriminate with respect to reimbursement levels based solely on a physician's decision not to participate in any form of maintenance of licensure or maintenance of certification, including basing a physician's reimbursement level on any form of maintenance of licensure tied to maintenance of certification.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 11, Part 2, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) For purposes of this section:

(1) "Maintenance of certification" means any process requiring periodic recertification examinations or other activities to maintain specialty medical board certification; and

(2) "Organized medical staff" means an organized body composed of individuals appointed by a facility's governing board that operates under bylaws approved by the governing body and is responsible for the quality of medical care provided to patients by the facility.

(b) Except as otherwise provided by this section, facilities licensed under this title may only differentiate between licensed physicians based on a physician's maintenance

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of certification in medical staff privileging and credentialing when authorized through the following process:

(1) The voting members of the facility's organized medical staff vote to adopt the differentiation; and

(2) The facility's governing body reviews and approves the action of the medical staff.

(c) An authorization described by subsection (b) may:

(1) Establish terms applicable to the facility's differentiation, including:

(A) Appropriate grandfathering provisions; and

(B) Limiting the differentiation to certain medical specialties; and

(2) Be rescinded at any time when:

(A) The voting members of the facility's organized medical staff vote to rescind the differentiating action; and

(B) The facility's governing body reviews and approves the rescinding action of the organized medical staff.

(d) Nothing in this section restricts a facility's ability to differentiate between physicians in medical staff privileging and credentialing based on a physician's maintenance of certification when:

(1) The facility's designation under law or certification or accreditation by a national certifying or accrediting organization is contingent on the facility requiring a specific maintenance of certification by physicians seeking staff privileges or credentialing at the facility; and

(2) The differentiation is limited to those physicians whose maintenance of certification is required for the facility's designation, certification, or accreditation as described by subdivision (d)(1).

(e) Nothing in this section requires a facility's organized medical staff or governing body to reconsider or vote to reconsider maintenance of certification differentiation or requirements made prior to July 1, 2018.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018, the public welfare requiring it.

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PASSED: March 19, 2018

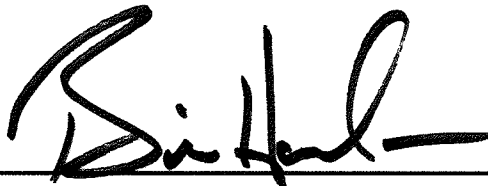


BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



RANDY MCNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 9th day of April 2018



BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR