THE SENATE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE, 2010 STATE OF HAWAII

S.B. NO. 2645

JAN 2 5 2010

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTHCARE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

SECTION 1. Doctors are critical components of our society,
 providing a very important service to everyone in the State, and
 it is the job of the legislature to ensure that the State
 provides the best quality of life possible for all of its
 residents. Addressing the needs and concerns of healthcare
 providers is a key step toward keeping Hawaii healthy.

7 Over the years a number of doctors have retired or left 8 Hawaii, especially the neighbor islands, citing reasons that 9 include high medical malpractice insurance rates, low insurance 10 reimbursement rates, and the high cost of living. Hawaii has 11 been unable to replace these doctors in a manner that provides 12 Hawaii residents timely access to adequate healthcare.

Furthermore, in addition to the general shortage of doctors in Hawaii, many of the remaining physicians are reluctant to accept and treat medicaid patients, making it even more difficult for this particular population to receive medical services on both a regular and emergency basis.



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1	The purpose of this Act is to address the shortage of
2	physicians who are willing to accept medicaid patients by
3	waiving the medical licensing fees of a physician if at least
4	twenty per cent of the physician's total patient case load
5	consists of medicaid patients and medicaid-like patients.
6	SECTION 2. Section 453-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
7	amended to read as follows:
8	"§453-6 Fees; expenses. (a) No applicant shall be
9	examined under this chapter until the applicant has paid to the
10	board application, examination, and license fees[+]; provided
11	that license renewal and application fees shall be waived for
12	any applicant if at least twenty per cent of the applicant's
13	total patient case load consists of medicaid or medicaid-like
14	patients accepted and treated by the applicant. The board may
15	provide separate fees for licensure by endorsement and for
16	limited and temporary licenses.
17	(b) Every physician or surgeon holding a license under
18	this chapter shall renew the license with the board no later
19	than January 31 of each [even_numbered] even_numbered year.
20	Every osteopathic physician or surgeon holding a license
21	previously issued under chapter 460 and this chapter shall renew
22	the license with the board no later than June 30 of each even-
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numbered year. Every physician, osteopathic physician, or
 surgeon shall pay a renewal fee, unless the fee has been waived
 <u>pursuant to subsection (a)</u>, and comply with the category 1 or 1A
 continuing medical education requirements provided in rules
 adopted by the board.

(c) A physician, osteopathic physician, or surgeon shall 6 7 meet the category 1 or 1A continuing medical education 8 requirements by obtaining credit hours in a category 1 or 1A 9 continuing medical education program accredited by the American 10 Medical Association or the American Osteopathic Association or 11 in other approved category 1 or 1A continuing medical education 12 as provided in the board's rules. To determine compliance, the 13 board may conduct a random audit. A physician, osteopathic 14 physician, or surgeon selected for audit shall be notified by 15 the board. Within sixty days of notification, the physician, 16 osteopathic physician, or surgeon shall provide to the board 17 documentation to verify compliance with the category 1 or 1A 18 continuing medical education requirements.

(d) Failure to renew, pay the renewal fee, and, in the
case of audited physicians, osteopathic physicians, or surgeons,
provide documentation of compliance shall constitute a
forfeiture of license, which may be restored only upon the



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submission of written application therefor, payment to the board
 of a restoration fee, and, in the case of audited physicians,
 osteopathic physicians, and surgeons, documentation of
 compliance.

5 (e) A license that has been forfeited for one renewal term
6 shall be automatically terminated and cannot be restored, and a
7 new application for licensure shall be required.

8 (f) For purposes of this section, "medicaid-like" means
9 any state-funded program established by the department of human
10 services to provide medical assistance to certain groups that
11 would not otherwise qualify for medicaid, up to three hundred
12 per cent of the federal poverty level."

13 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that 14 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were 15 begun, before its effective date.

16 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed17 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

18 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2010.

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INTRODUCED BY:

Rondy & Bal Arid y Ly Stranne Chun Clauland



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Report Title:

Waives medical licensing fees provided that no less than twenty per cent of their patient case load is Medicaid or Medicaid-like patients.

Description:

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Waives the medical licensing fees for physicians licensed to practice medicine and prescribe prescription medication in the State of Hawaii, provided that no less than twenty per cent of their patient case load is Medicaid or Medicaid-like patients.

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