



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Substitute Bill No. 6979



**AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING PHYSICIAN RECRUITMENT.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 19a-88 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
3 *1, 2025*):

4 (b) Each person holding a license to practice medicine, surgery,
5 podiatry, chiropractic or naturopathy shall, annually, during the month
6 of such person's birth, register with the Department of Public Health,
7 upon payment of the professional services fee for class I, as defined in
8 section 33-182l, plus five dollars. Each person holding a license to
9 practice medicine or surgery shall pay five dollars in addition to such
10 professional services fee. Such registration shall be on blanks to be
11 furnished by the department for such purpose, giving such person's
12 name in full, such person's residence and business address and such
13 other information as the department requests. On and after January 1,
14 2026, each person holding a license to practice medicine who has retired
15 from the profession may renew such license. The fee for such license
16 renewal shall be ten per cent of the professional services fee for class I,
17 as determined in accordance with section 33-182l, or ninety-five dollars,
18 whichever is greater. Any such license provided by the department at a
19 reduced fee pursuant to this subsection shall indicate that the
20 practitioner is retired.

21 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) For the purposes of subsection
22 (b) of section 19a-88 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, the
23 Commissioner of Public Health shall, not later than January 1, 2026,
24 adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the
25 general statutes. Such regulations shall include, but need not be limited
26 to, (1) a definition of "retired from the profession" as that term applies
27 to physicians, (2) procedures for licensed physicians, who have retired
28 from the profession, to return to active employment, and (3) appropriate
29 restrictions upon the scope of practice for such physicians who are
30 retired from the profession, including restricting the license of such
31 physicians to the provision of volunteer services without monetary
32 compensation.

33 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) Any person licensed pursuant
34 to section 20-13 of the general statutes, who is retired from the
35 profession and whose license has become void pursuant to section 19a-
36 88 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, may apply for
37 reinstatement of such license pursuant to the provisions of section 19a-
38 14 of the general statutes. The Commissioner of Public Health shall
39 adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the
40 general statutes, to implement the provisions of this section. Such
41 regulations shall include, but need not be limited to, (1) a definition of
42 "retired from the profession" as that term applies to physicians, and (2)
43 (A) eligibility requirements consistent with the provisions of
44 subdivision (6) of subsection (a) of section 19a-14 of the general statutes,
45 and (B) application procedures relating to license reinstatement. The
46 commissioner may impose any conditions or restrictions upon the scope
47 of practice of a physician whose license is reinstated pursuant to the
48 provisions of this subdivision, including, but not limited to, conditions
49 or restrictions relating to the provision of volunteer services without
50 monetary compensation.

51 Sec. 4. Subsections (a) to (c), inclusive, of section 20-11b of the general
52 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
53 (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

54 (a) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, each person
55 licensed to practice medicine and surgery under the provisions of
56 section 20-13 who provides direct patient care services shall maintain
57 professional liability insurance or other indemnity against liability for
58 professional malpractice. The amount of insurance which each such
59 person shall carry as insurance or indemnity against claims for injury or
60 death for professional malpractice shall not be less than five hundred
61 thousand dollars for one person, per occurrence, with an aggregate of
62 not less than one million five hundred thousand dollars.

63 (b) Each insurance company which issues professional liability
64 insurance, as defined in subdivisions (1), (6), (7), (8) and (9) of subsection
65 (b) of section 38a-393, shall on and after January 1, 1995, render to the
66 Commissioner of Public Health a true record of the names and
67 addresses, according to classification, of cancellations of and refusals to
68 renew professional liability insurance policies and the reasons for such
69 cancellation or refusal to renew said policies for the year ending on the
70 thirty-first day of December next preceding.

71 (c) A person subject to the provisions of subsection (a) of this section
72 shall be deemed in compliance with such subsection when providing
73 primary health care or behavioral health care services at a clinic licensed
74 by the Department of Public Health that is recognized as tax exempt
75 pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or
76 any successor internal revenue code, as may be amended from time to
77 time, provided: (1) Such person is not compensated for such services; (2)
78 the clinic does not charge patients for such services; (3) the clinic
79 maintains professional liability insurance coverage in the amounts
80 required by subsection (a) of this section for each aggregated forty hours
81 of service or fraction thereof for such persons; (4) the clinic carries
82 additional appropriate professional liability coverage on behalf of the
83 clinic and its employees in the amounts of five hundred thousand
84 dollars per occurrence, with an aggregate of not less than one million
85 five hundred thousand dollars; and (5) the clinic maintains total
86 professional liability coverage of not less than one million dollars per
87 occurrence with an annual aggregate of not less than three million

88 dollars. Such person shall be subject to the provisions of subsection (a)
 89 of this section when providing direct patient care services in any setting
 90 other than such clinic. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to
 91 relieve the clinic from any insurance requirements otherwise required
 92 by law.

93 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Public
 94 Health shall establish, within available appropriations, a student loan
 95 repayment program for health care providers who provide primary care
 96 and behavioral health services in the state. For the purposes of this
 97 section, "primary care" means the medical fields of family medicine,
 98 general pediatrics, primary care, internal medicine, primary care
 99 obstetrics or primary care gynecology, without regard to board
 100 certification. The commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance
 101 with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to implement
 102 the provisions of this section, including, but not limited to, establishing
 103 eligibility criteria and obligations of program participants.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	19a-88(b)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	20-11b(a) to (c)
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	New section

PH *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

FIN *Joint Favorable*