



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE March 3, 2008

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Senate Bill 462 - An Act Concerning License Renewal Fees for Physicians

The Department of Public Health provides the following information with regard to Senate Bill 462.

This bill proposes to amend Section 20-10c of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes by expanding the type of volunteer service a retired physician may provide in order to qualify for an exemption from paying the \$450.00 annual license renewal fee.

Currently, physicians who practice medicine for no fee for at least one hundred hours per year at a public health facility and who do not otherwise engage in the practice of medicine are eligible to renew their license at no cost. This provision was enacted in 2007. "Public health facility" is defined as a licensed health care institution, a community health center, a group home, a school, a preschool operated by a local or regional board of education or a head start program. This bill would also allow retired physicians who practice in connection with mobile health clinics that provide health care services to individuals in this state to qualify for the exemption.

Since enactment of this legislation in 2007, many retired physicians who provide volunteer services in other settings such as local health departments, the Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Coast Guard Clinics and Doctors Without Borders have contacted the Department but have not qualified for a fee exemption. Should this proposal move forward, the Committee may wish to consider including language that would encompass additional settings. The Department would welcome the opportunity to work with the Committee on language to address this issue.

Implementation of this proposal may result in a loss of general fund revenue. Since the Department does not currently maintain information concerning the number of retired physicians who maintain licensure in Connecticut, the revenue loss is difficult to predict. If one percent of currently licensed physicians were to request an exemption under this proposal, the annual loss to the general fund would be approximately \$71,100.00.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.

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