



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 376

February Session, 2010

Substitute House Bill No. 5452

House of Representatives, April 7, 2010

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. RITTER of the 38th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF VOLUNTEER HEALTH CARE SERVICES ON A TEMPORARY BASIS.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2010*) No provision of title 19a or
2 20 of the general statutes shall be construed to prohibit an out-of-state
3 health care practitioner who holds a current unrestricted health care
4 practitioner license or certificate issued in another state, territory of the
5 United States or the District of Columbia from providing
6 uncompensated health care services in this state in association with: (1)
7 A free clinic or other similar charitable medical event that provides
8 health care services to persons at no cost; or (2) the Special Olympics or
9 any other similar athletic competition held in the state that attracts a
10 large number of out-of-state participants, provided the out-of-state
11 health care practitioner: (A) Does not represent himself or herself to be
12 a Connecticut licensed or certified health care practitioner; (B) only
13 provides health care services to patients seeking health care services at
14 a charitable medical event or athletes participating in the Special

15 Olympics or other similar athletic competition; (C) only provides
 16 health care services authorized pursuant to state law while under the
 17 supervision of a Connecticut licensed or certified health care
 18 practitioner within the same professional licensure or certification
 19 category; and (D) maintains professional liability insurance or other
 20 indemnity against liability for professional malpractice in an amount
 21 that is equal to or greater than that required for similarly licensed or
 22 certified Connecticut practitioners. Any organization conducting a free
 23 clinic, charitable medical event or athletic competition shall be
 24 responsible for ensuring that an out-of-state health care practitioner
 25 participating in such event fully complies with the requirements of this
 26 section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2010	New section

PH *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which allows certain out-of-state, volunteer health care practitioners to provide health care services at free clinics, the Special Olympics, and other similar events without holding Connecticut licenses, does not result in a fiscal impact.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5452*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF VOLUNTEER HEALTH CARE SERVICES ON A TEMPORARY BASIS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill allows out-of-state, volunteer health care practitioners to provide health care services in Connecticut at (1) a free clinic or similar charitable medical event providing free health care services or (2) the Special Olympics or similar athletic event attracting a large number of out-of-state participants provided they meet certain criteria. The practitioner must:

1. hold an unrestricted license or certificate in another state, territory, or the District of Columbia;
2. not represent himself or herself as a Connecticut-licensed or certified health care practitioner;
3. provide their services only to patients or athletes participating in these events;
4. provide only those services permitted by Connecticut law;
5. provide services only under the supervision of a Connecticut-licensed or -certified health care practitioner within the same licensure or certification category; and
6. maintain professional liability insurance or other professional malpractice insurance in an amount equal to or greater than that required for a comparable Connecticut licensee or certificate holder.

The bill requires the organization providing such events to ensure

that any participating out-of-state practitioner fully complies with the bill's provisions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2010

BILL APPLICABILITY

The bill appears to apply to any licensed or certified health care practitioner, which under current law may include physicians and surgeons, osteopaths, chiropractors, natureopaths, podiatrists, athletic trainers, physical therapists, occupational therapists, alcohol and drug counselors, radiographers, radiologic technologists, midwives, nurses, nurses aides, dentists, dental hygienists, optometrists, opticians, respiratory care practitioners, perfusionists, pharmacists, psychologists, marital and family therapists, clinical social workers, professional counselors, veterinarians, massage therapists, and emergency medical technicians.

BACKGROUND

Out-of-State Health Care Providers Allowed To Work in an Emergency

Current law allows various health care practitioners licensed, certified, or registered in another state, territory, or the District of Columbia, to work in Connecticut during a declared public health emergency. They can work only within the scope of their practice as permitted by Connecticut law. The law allows the DPH commissioner to suspend, for up to 60 consecutive days, state licensing, certification, or registration requirements that apply to them (CGS §19a-131j).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 30 Nay 1 (03/24/2010)