

As Introduced

**132nd General Assembly
Regular Session
2017-2018**

S. B. No. 16

**Senator Tavares
Cosponsor: Senator Thomas**

A BILL

To amend section 4743.08 of the Revised Code to 1
require certain health care professionals to 2
complete instruction in cultural competency. 3

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

Section 1. That section 4743.08 of the Revised Code be 4
amended to read as follows: 5

Sec. 4743.08. (A) As used in this section, ~~"state-;~~ 6

(1) "Applicant" means an individual who applies for 7
licensure, certification, or registration, as applicable, to 8
practice as a health care professional. 9

(2) "Health care professional" means all of the following: 10

(a) A dentist licensed by the state dental board under 11
Chapter 4715. of the Revised Code; 12

(b) A registered nurse or licensed practical nurse 13
licensed by the board of nursing under Chapter 4723. of the 14
Revised Code; 15

(c) An optometrist licensed by the state board of 16

optometry under Chapter 4725. of the Revised Code; 17

(d) A pharmacist licensed by the state board of pharmacy 18
under Chapter 4729. of the Revised Code; 19

(e) A physician authorized to practice medicine and 20
surgery or osteopathic medicine and surgery by the state medical 21
board under Chapter 4731. of the Revised Code; 22

(f) A psychologist licensed by the state board of 23
psychology under Chapter 4732. of the Revised Code; 24

(g) An independent social worker, social worker, or social 25
work assistant licensed or registered by the counselor, social 26
worker, and marriage and family therapist board under Chapter 27
4757. of the Revised Code. 28

(3) "State licensing board" means the state dental board, 29
the board of nursing, the state board of pharmacy, the state 30
medical board, the state board of psychology, or the counselor, 31
social-~~workers~~ worker, and marriage and family therapist board. 32

~~(B) Not later than one hundred twenty days after the~~ 33
~~effective date of this section, each state board shall consider~~ 34
~~the problems of race and gender based disparities in health care~~ 35
~~treatment decisions. When doing so, the boards shall consult~~ 36
~~with the commission on minority health and one or more~~ 37
~~professionally relevant and nationally recognized organizations~~ 38
~~or similar entities that review the curricula and experiential~~ 39
~~learning opportunities offered by the applicable health care~~ 40
~~professional schools, colleges, and other educational~~ 41
~~institutions.~~ 42

~~(C) Each state board shall annually provide its licensees~~ 43
~~or certificate holders with a list of continuing education~~ 44
~~courses and experiential learning opportunities addressing~~ 45

~~cultural competency in health care treatment. If a state board~~ 46
~~determines that a sufficient number of courses or experiential~~ 47
~~learning opportunities does not exist, the board shall~~ 48
~~collaborate with the organizations or similar entities described~~ 49
~~in division (B) of this section to create such courses and~~ 50
~~opportunities. Except as provided in division (C) of this~~ 51
~~section, to be eligible to receive or renew licensure,~~ 52
~~certification, or registration, as applicable, each applicant or~~ 53
~~health care professional shall submit to the appropriate state~~ 54
~~licensing board evidence that the applicant or professional has~~ 55
~~successfully completed the board's requirements for instruction~~ 56
~~or continuing education in cultural competency, as those~~ 57
~~requirements are established by the board in rules adopted under~~ 58
~~division (D) of this section.~~ 59

(C) A state licensing board may grant an applicant or 60
health care professional a waiver of the board's requirements 61
for instruction or continuing education in cultural competency 62
if the applicant or professional meets the criteria established 63
by the board in rules adopted under division (D) of this 64
section. 65

(D) In accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, 66
each state licensing board shall adopt rules that establish all 67
of the following: 68

(1) The number of hours of instruction in cultural 69
competency an applicant must complete to be eligible to receive 70
licensure, certification, or registration from the board; 71

(2) The number of hours of continuing education in 72
cultural competency required for renewal of licensure, 73
certification, or registration by the board; 74

(3) The criteria that will be considered by the board in 75
deciding whether to grant an applicant or health care 76
professional a waiver of the requirement to complete instruction 77
or continuing education in cultural competency, including 78
demonstration to the board's satisfaction that the applicant or 79
professional has attained experience that is substantially 80
equivalent to the required number of hours of instruction or 81
continuing education in cultural competency. 82

(E) In developing the rules described in division (D) of 83
this section, each state licensing board shall consider the 84
problems of race and gender-based disparities in health care 85
treatment decisions and consult with one or more professionally 86
relevant and nationally recognized organizations, or similar 87
entities, that review the curricula offered by the applicable 88
health care professional schools, colleges, and other 89
educational institutions. 90

(F) Not later than ninety days after the effective date of 91
this section, each state licensing board shall approve one or 92
more continuing education courses addressing cultural competency 93
in health care treatment. To be approved, a course must include 94
instruction in addressing the problems of race and gender-based 95
disparities in health care treatment decisions. The board may 96
approve courses that are included within continuing education 97
programs certified by professional associations or similar 98
entities. 99

Section 2. That existing section 4743.08 of the Revised 100
Code is hereby repealed. 101