

**As Introduced**

**133rd General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2019-2020**

**H. B. No. 661**

**Representative Galonski**

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**A BILL**

To amend section 4730.14 and to enact sections 1  
4723.251, 4729.261, 4730.141, and 4731.283 of 2  
the Revised Code to require nurses, pharmacists, 3  
physician assistants, physicians, and 4  
podiatrists to complete continuing education in 5  
human trafficking. 6

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

**Section 1.** That section 4730.14 be amended and sections 7  
4723.251, 4729.261, 4730.141, and 4731.283 of the Revised Code 8  
be enacted to read as follows: 9

**Sec. 4723.251.** (A) To be eligible for renewal of an active 10  
license to practice nursing as a registered nurse or licensed 11  
practical nurse, the license holder shall complete every two 12  
years continuing education in human trafficking that is obtained 13  
through a program or course approved by the board of nursing. 14  
The continuing education shall be completed not later than the 15  
date on which the license expires. 16

(B) In accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, 17  
the board shall adopt rules establishing the number of hours of 18  
continuing education in human trafficking required for renewal. 19

(C) Not later than ninety days after the effective date of 20  
this section, the board shall approve one or more continuing 21  
education courses that address human trafficking. The board may 22  
approve courses that are included within continuing education 23  
programs certified by professional associations or similar 24  
entities. To be eligible for approval, a course shall assist 25  
nurses in recognizing the signs of human trafficking. 26

(D) When implementing this section, the board may consult 27  
with one or more professionally relevant and nationally 28  
recognized organizations with expertise in human trafficking. 29

(E) The continuing education required by this section 30  
shall be applied toward the continuing education required by 31  
section 4723.24 of the Revised Code. 32

**Sec. 4729.261.** (A) To be eligible for renewal of a license 33  
to practice as a pharmacist or pharmacy intern, the license 34  
holder shall complete continuing education in human trafficking 35  
that is obtained through a program or course approved by the 36  
state board of pharmacy. The continuing education shall be 37  
completed not later than the date on which the license expires. 38

(B) In accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, 39  
the board shall adopt rules establishing the number of hours of 40  
continuing education in human trafficking required for renewal. 41

(C) Not later than ninety days after the effective date of 42  
this section, the board shall approve one or more continuing 43  
education courses that address human trafficking. The board may 44  
approve courses that are included within continuing education 45  
programs certified by professional associations or similar 46  
entities. To be eligible for approval, a course shall assist 47  
pharmacists and pharmacy interns in recognizing the signs of 48

human trafficking. 49

(D) When implementing this section, the board may consult 50  
with one or more professionally relevant and nationally 51  
recognized organizations with expertise in human trafficking. 52

**Sec. 4730.14.** (A) A license to practice as a physician 53  
assistant shall be valid for a two-year period unless revoked or 54  
suspended, shall expire on the date that is two years after the 55  
date of issuance, and may be renewed for additional two-year 56  
periods in accordance with this section. A person seeking to 57  
renew a license shall apply to the state medical board for 58  
renewal prior to the license's expiration date. The board shall 59  
provide renewal notices to license holders at least one month 60  
prior to the expiration date. 61

Applications shall be submitted to the board in a manner 62  
prescribed by the board. Each application shall be accompanied 63  
by a biennial renewal fee of two hundred dollars. The board 64  
shall deposit the fees in accordance with section 4731.24 of the 65  
Revised Code. 66

The applicant shall report any criminal offense that 67  
constitutes grounds for refusing to issue a license to practice 68  
under section 4730.25 of the Revised Code to which the applicant 69  
has pleaded guilty, of which the applicant has been found 70  
guilty, or for which the applicant has been found eligible for 71  
intervention in lieu of conviction, since last signing an 72  
application for a license to practice as a physician assistant. 73

(B) To be eligible for renewal of a license, an applicant 74  
is subject to all of the following: 75

(1) The applicant must certify to the board that the 76  
applicant has maintained certification by the national 77

commission on certification of physician assistants or a 78  
successor organization that is recognized by the board by 79  
meeting the standards to hold current certification from the 80  
commission or its successor, including passing periodic 81  
recertification examinations; 82

(2) Except as provided in section 5903.12 of the Revised 83  
Code, the applicant must certify to the board that the applicant 84  
is in compliance with the continuing medical education 85  
requirements necessary to hold current certification from the 86  
commission or its successor. 87

(3) The applicant must comply with the renewal eligibility 88  
requirements established under section 4730.49 of the Revised 89  
Code that pertain to the applicant. 90

(4) The applicant must comply with the continuing 91  
education requirements established under section 4730.141 of the 92  
Revised Code. 93

(C) If an applicant submits a complete renewal application 94  
and qualifies for renewal pursuant to division (B) of this 95  
section, the board shall issue to the applicant a renewed 96  
license to practice as a physician assistant. 97

(D) The board may require a random sample of physician 98  
assistants to submit materials documenting both of the 99  
following: 100

(1) Certification by the national commission on 101  
certification of physician assistants or a successor 102  
organization that is recognized by the board; 103

(2) Completion of the continuing medical education 104  
required to hold current certification from the commission or 105  
its successor. 106

Division (D) of this section does not limit the board's 107  
authority to conduct investigations pursuant to section 4730.25 108  
of the Revised Code. 109

(E) A license to practice that is not renewed on or before 110  
its expiration date is automatically suspended on its expiration 111  
date. Continued practice after suspension of the license shall 112  
be considered as practicing in violation of division (A) of 113  
section 4730.02 of the Revised Code. 114

(F) If a license has been suspended pursuant to division 115  
(E) of this section for two years or less, it may be reinstated. 116  
The board shall reinstate a license suspended for failure to 117  
renew upon an applicant's submission of a renewal application, 118  
the biennial renewal fee, and any applicable monetary penalty. 119

If a license has been suspended pursuant to division (E) 120  
of this section for more than two years, it may be restored. In 121  
accordance with section 4730.28 of the Revised Code, the board 122  
may restore a license suspended for failure to renew upon an 123  
applicant's submission of a restoration application, the 124  
biennial renewal fee, and any applicable monetary penalty and 125  
compliance with sections 4776.01 to 4776.04 of the Revised Code. 126  
The board shall not restore to an applicant a license to 127  
practice as a physician assistant unless the board, in its 128  
discretion, decides that the results of the criminal records 129  
check do not make the applicant ineligible for a license issued 130  
pursuant to section 4730.12 of the Revised Code. 131

The penalty for reinstatement shall be fifty dollars and 132  
the penalty for restoration shall be one hundred dollars. The 133  
board shall deposit penalties in accordance with section 4731.24 134  
of the Revised Code. 135

(G) (1) If, through a random sample conducted under 136  
division (D) of this section or any other means, the board finds 137  
that an individual who certified completion of the continuing 138  
medical education required to renew, reinstate, or restore a 139  
license to practice did not complete the requisite continuing 140  
medical education, the board may do either of the following: 141

(a) Take disciplinary action against the individual under 142  
section 4730.25 of the Revised Code, impose a civil penalty, or 143  
both; 144

(b) Permit the individual to agree in writing to complete 145  
the continuing medical education and pay a civil penalty. 146

(2) The board's finding in any disciplinary action taken 147  
under division (G) (1) (a) of this section shall be made pursuant 148  
to an adjudication under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code and by 149  
an affirmative vote of not fewer than six of its members. 150

(3) A civil penalty imposed under division (G) (1) (a) of 151  
this section or paid under division (G) (1) (b) of this section 152  
shall be in an amount specified by the board of not more than 153  
five thousand dollars. The board shall deposit civil penalties 154  
in accordance with section 4731.24 of the Revised Code. 155

Sec. 4730.141. (A) To be eligible for renewal of a license 156  
to practice as a physician assistant, the license holder shall 157  
complete every two years continuing education in human 158  
trafficking that is obtained through a program or course 159  
approved by the state medical board. The continuing education 160  
shall be completed not later than the date on which the license 161  
expires. 162

(B) In accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, 163  
the board shall adopt rules establishing the number of hours of 164

continuing education in human trafficking required for renewal. 165

(C) Not later than ninety days after the effective date of 166  
this section, the board shall approve one or more continuing 167  
education courses that address human trafficking. The board may 168  
approve courses that are included within continuing education 169  
programs certified by professional associations or similar 170  
entities. To be eligible for approval, a course shall assist 171  
physician assistants in recognizing the signs of human 172  
trafficking. 173

(D) When implementing this section, the board may consult 174  
with one or more professionally relevant and nationally 175  
recognized organizations with expertise in human trafficking. 176

(E) The continuing education required by this section is 177  
in addition to the continuing education required by section 178  
4730.14 of the Revised Code. 179

**Sec. 4731.283.** (A) Each person holding a license to 180  
practice medicine and surgery, osteopathic medicine and surgery, 181  
or podiatric medicine and surgery shall complete biennially 182  
continuing education in human trafficking that is obtained 183  
through a program or course approved by the state medical board. 184  
The continuing education shall be completed not later than the 185  
date on which the license expires. 186

(B) In accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, 187  
the board shall adopt rules establishing the number of hours of 188  
continuing education in human trafficking required for renewal. 189

(C) Not later than ninety days after the effective date of 190  
this section, the board shall approve one or more continuing 191  
education courses that address human trafficking. The board may 192  
approve courses that are included within continuing education 193

programs certified by professional associations or similar 194  
entities. To be eligible for approval, a course shall assist 195  
physicians and podiatrists in recognizing the signs of human 196  
trafficking. 197

(D) When implementing this section, the board may consult 198  
with one or more professionally relevant and nationally 199  
recognized organizations with expertise in human trafficking. 200

(E) The continuing education required by this section 201  
shall be applied toward the continuing education required by 202  
section 4731.282 of the Revised Code. 203

**Section 2.** That existing section 4730.14 of the Revised 204  
Code is hereby repealed. 205