

**As Introduced**

**134th General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2021-2022**

**S. B. No. 48**

**Senators Maharath, Antonio**

**Cosponsors: Senators Craig, Fedor, Thomas**



**A BILL**

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

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

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

**Sec. 4743.08.** (A) As used in this section, ~~"state:~~

(1) "Applicant" means an individual who applies to a state  
licensing board for initial authority to practice as a health  
care professional.

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

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

(b) A registered nurse, advanced practice registered  
nurse, or licensed practical nurse licensed by the board of  
nursing under Chapter 4723. of the Revised Code;

(c) An optometrist licensed by the state board of

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, osteopathic medicine and surgery, or podiatric medicine 21  
and surgery by the state medical board under Chapter 4731. of 22  
the Revised Code; 23

(f) A psychologist licensed by the state board of 24  
psychology under Chapter 4732. of the Revised Code; 25

(g) An independent social worker, social worker, or social 26  
work assistant licensed or registered by the counselor, social 27  
worker, and marriage and family therapist board under Chapter 28  
4757. of the Revised Code. 29

(3) "State licensing board" means the state dental board, 30  
the board of nursing, the state board of pharmacy, the state 31  
medical board, the state board of psychology, or the counselor, 32  
social-workers ~~worker~~, and marriage and family therapist board. 33

~~(B) Not later than one hundred twenty days after the~~ 34  
~~effective date of this section, each state board shall consider~~ 35  
~~the problems of race and gender-based disparities in health care~~ 36  
~~treatment decisions. When doing so, the boards shall consult~~ 37  
~~with the commission on minority health and one or more~~ 38  
~~professionally relevant and nationally recognized organizations~~ 39  
~~or similar entities that review the curricula and experiential~~ 40  
~~learning opportunities offered by the applicable health care~~ 41  
~~professional schools, colleges, and other educational~~ 42  
~~institutions.~~ 43

~~(C) Each state board shall annually provide its licensees~~ 44  
~~or certificate holders with a list of continuing education~~ 45

~~courses and experiential learning opportunities addressing~~ 46  
~~cultural competency in health care treatment. If a state board~~ 47  
~~determines that a sufficient number of courses or experiential~~ 48  
~~learning opportunities does not exist, the board shall~~ 49  
~~collaborate with the organizations or similar entities described~~ 50  
~~in division (B) of this section to create such courses and~~ 51  
~~opportunities. Except as provided in division (C) of this~~ 52  
~~section, to be eligible for or to renew a license, certificate,~~ 53  
~~or registration issued by a state licensing board, an applicant~~ 54  
~~or health care professional shall complete instruction or~~ 55  
~~continuing education, as applicable, in cultural competency.~~ 56  
When submitting an initial or renewal application, the applicant 57  
or professional shall provide to the relevant board evidence of 58  
successfully completing the board's cultural competency 59  
requirements, as established in rules adopted under division (D) 60  
of this section. 61

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

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

(1) The number of hours of instruction in cultural 69  
competency an applicant must complete to be eligible for a 70  
board-issued license, certificate, or registration; 71

(2) The number of hours of continuing education in 72  
cultural competency required for renewal of a board-issued 73  
license, certificate, or registration; 74

(3) The criteria to be considered by the board when 75  
determining whether to waive cultural competency requirements 76  
for an applicant or health care professional, including evidence 77  
that the applicant or professional has attained experience that 78  
is substantially equivalent to the required number of hours of 79  
instruction or continuing education in cultural competency. 80

(E) When adopting rules as described in division (D) of 81  
this section, a state licensing board shall consider race and 82  
gender-based disparities in health care and shall consult with 83  
one or more professionally relevant and nationally recognized 84  
organizations that review curricula offered by health care 85  
professional schools, colleges, and other educational 86  
institutions. 87

(F) Not later than ninety days after the effective date of 88  
this section, a state licensing board shall approve one or more 89  
continuing education courses that address cultural competency in 90  
health care and that provide instruction in race and gender- 91  
based disparities in health care. The board may approve courses 92  
that are included within continuing education programs certified 93  
by professional associations or similar entities. 94

**Section 2.** That existing section 4743.08 of the Revised 95  
Code is hereby repealed. 96