

Senate Bill 207

By: Senators Burke of the 11th, Kirkpatrick of the 32nd, Watson of the 1st, Unterman of the 45th, Kirk of the 13th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 10 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
2 Georgia Board for Physician Workforce, so as to change the name of such board to the
3 Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce; to revise the board's membership; to provide for
4 current members of the board to serve out their terms of office; to amend the Official Code
5 of Georgia Annotated so as to conform cross-references; to provide for related matters; to
6 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Chapter 10 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Georgia
10 Board for Physician Workforce, is amended in Code Section 49-10-1, related to board for
11 physician workforce, composition, expense allowances, staffing, and advisory committees,
12 by revising subsection (a) as follows:

13 ~~"(a)(1) The Joint Board of Family Practice which existed on January 1, 1998, is~~
14 ~~continued in existence but on and after July 1, 1998, shall become and be known as the~~
15 ~~Georgia Board for Physician Workforce.~~ The Georgia Board for Physician Workforce
16 which existed on January 1, 2019, is continued in existence but on and after July 1, 2019,
17 shall become and be known as the Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce, referred to
18 in this chapter as the 'board,' and shall be attached to the Department of Community
19 Health for administrative purposes only, as defined by Code Section 50-4-3, except that
20 such department shall prepare and submit the budget for that board in concurrence with
21 that board.

22 (2) ~~The Georgia Board for Physician Workforce~~ board shall be composed of 15
23 members, all of whom are residents of this state, as follows:

24 ~~(A) Five members shall be primary care physicians, at least three of whom shall be~~
25 ~~from rural areas;~~

26 ~~(B) Five members shall be physicians who are not primary care physicians, at least~~
 27 ~~three of whom shall practice in rural areas;~~

28 ~~(C) Three members shall be representatives of hospitals which are not teaching~~
 29 ~~hospitals, with at least two of those three members being representatives of rural,~~
 30 ~~nonprofit hospitals;~~

31 ~~(D) One member shall be a representative from the business community;~~

32 ~~(E) One member shall have no connection with the practice of medicine or the~~
 33 ~~provision of health care; and~~

34 (A) Eight members shall be physicians;

35 (B) Seven members shall be physicians or other health care providers; and

36 ~~(F)(C) The physicians on the board shall represent a diversity of medical disciplines,~~
 37 ~~including, but not limited to, women's health, geriatrics, and children's health. The~~
 38 ~~board shall represent the gender, racial, and geographical diversity of the state.~~

39 (3) All members of the board shall be appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the
 40 Senate. All members of the board in office on July 1, 2019, shall continue to serve as a
 41 member of the board until the expiration of his or her term of office. The terms of office
 42 ~~of all the members of the Joint Board of Family Practice shall expire July 1, 1998, but~~
 43 ~~only at such time on or after that date when all 15 of the initial members of the Georgia~~
 44 ~~Board of Physician Workforce have been appointed and qualified. No such initial~~
 45 ~~member shall exercise any power under this chapter until all 15 members have been~~
 46 ~~appointed and qualified. The initial members of the board who are appointed thereto~~
 47 ~~shall take office for initial terms of office as follows:~~

48 ~~(A) Two primary care physicians, two physicians who are not primary care physicians,~~
 49 ~~and one representative of a hospital which is not a teaching hospital shall be appointed~~
 50 ~~to two-year terms of office;~~

51 ~~(B) Two primary care physicians, two physicians who are not primary care physicians,~~
 52 ~~and one representative of a hospital which is not a teaching hospital shall be appointed~~
 53 ~~to four-year terms of office; and~~

54 ~~(C) The remainder of the board shall be appointed to six-year terms of office.~~

55 ~~Thereafter, successors~~ Successors ~~to such members shall be appointed for terms of six~~
 56 ~~years. The Governor shall designate the term to which each initial member is appointed.~~
 57 ~~All members shall serve until their successors are appointed and qualified. Members~~
 58 ~~appointed under this paragraph shall be eligible to serve on the board until confirmed by~~
 59 ~~the Senate at the session of the General Assembly next following their appointment.~~

60 (4) In case of a vacancy on the board by reason of death or resignation of a member or
 61 for any other cause other than the expiration of the member's term of office, the board
 62 shall by secret ballot elect a temporary successor. If the General Assembly is in session,

63 the temporary successor shall serve until the end of that session. If the General Assembly
 64 is not in session, the temporary successor shall serve until the end of the session next
 65 following the vacancy or until the expiration of the vacated member's term of office,
 66 whichever occurs first. The Governor shall appoint a permanent successor who shall be
 67 confirmed by the Senate. The permanent successor shall take office on the first day after
 68 the General Assembly adjourns and shall serve for the unexpired term and until his or her
 69 successor is appointed and qualified.

70 (5) The office on the board of a member thereof who fails to attend more than three
 71 consecutive regular meetings of the board, without excuse approved by resolution of the
 72 board, shall become vacant."

73 **SECTION 2.**

74 The Official Code of Georgia Annotated is amended by replacing "Georgia Board for
 75 Physician Workforce" with "Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce" wherever the former
 76 term occurs in:

77 (1) Code Section 20-3-510, relating to board defined relative to medical scholarships;

78 (2) Code Section 20-3-513, relating to determination of amount by board, terms and
 79 conditions, and repayment in services relative to medical scholarships;

80 (3) Code Section 31-2-16, relating to the creation of the Rural Health System Innovation
 81 Center, its purposes and duties, and reporting;

82 (4) Code Section 31-7-95, relating to funding of medical education provided by hospital
 83 authorities and designated teaching hospitals;

84 (5) Code Section 31-34-2, relating to purpose and intent of article relative to medical
 85 professionals for rural areas assistance;

86 (6) Code Section 31-34-3, relating to administration by Georgia Board for Physician
 87 Workforce;

88 (7) Code Section 31-34-20, relating to a grant program for physicians serving underserved
 89 rural areas, eligibility qualifications, time of practice, and rules and regulations;

90 (8) Code Section 45-7-21, relating to expense allowance and travel cost reimbursement for
 91 members of certain boards and commissions;

92 (9) Code Section 48-7-161, relating to definitions relative to setoff debt collection; and

93 (10) Code Section 49-10-3, relating to powers, duties, and responsibilities of the Georgia
 94 Board for Physician Workforce.

95 **SECTION 3.**

96 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.