

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2011

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SENATE BILL 743  
Health Care Committee Substitute Adopted 5/24/11

Short Title: Encourage Volunteer Health Care Providers.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 20, 2011

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO ENCOURAGE THE PROVISION OF MEDICAL SERVICES TO INDIGENT  
3 PERSONS BY PROVIDING FOR A RETIRED LIMITED VOLUNTEER LICENSE AND  
4 BY BROADENING THE APPLICABILITY OF A LIMITED VOLUNTEER LICENSE  
5 AND BY LIMITING LIABILITY FOR NONPROFIT COMMUNITY HEALTH  
6 REFERRAL SERVICES.

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 90-12.1A reads as rewritten:

9 "**§ 90-12.1A. Limited volunteer license.**

10 (a) The Board may issue a "~~military~~ limited volunteer license" to an applicant who:

11 (1) Has a license to practice medicine and surgery in another ~~state;~~ state; and

12 (2) Produces a letter from the state of licensure indicating the ~~applicant is~~  
13 applicant's license is active and in good standing; ~~and standing.~~

14 (3) ~~Is authorized to treat personnel enlisted in a branch of the United States~~  
15 ~~armed services or veterans.~~

16 (b) ~~The Board may issue a "retired limited volunteer license" to an applicant who is a~~  
17 ~~retired physician and has allowed his or her license to practice medicine and surgery in this~~  
18 ~~State or another state to become inactive.~~

19 (c) ~~A physician holding a limited license under this section shall comply with the~~  
20 ~~continuing medical education requirements pursuant to rules adopted by the Board.~~

21 (d) The Board shall issue a limited license under this section within 30 days after an  
22 applicant provides the Board with information satisfying the requirements of this section.

23 (e) The holder of a limited license under this section may practice medicine and surgery  
24 only at clinics that specialize in the treatment of indigent patients. The holder of the limited  
25 license may not receive compensation for services rendered at clinics specializing in the care of  
26 indigent patients.

27 (e1) The holder of a limited volunteer license shall practice medicine and surgery within  
28 this State for no more than 30 days per calendar year.

29 (f) The holder of a limited license issued pursuant to this section who practices  
30 medicine or surgery at places other than clinics that specialize in the treatment of indigent  
31 patients shall be guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not less  
32 than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) nor more than fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each offense. The  
33 Board, in its discretion, may revoke the limited license after due notice is given to the holder of  
34 the limited license.

35 (g) The Board may, by rule, require an applicant for a limited license under this section  
36 to comply with other requirements or submit additional information the Board deems  
37 appropriate."



1           **SECTION 2.** Article 1 of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes is amended by adding  
2 a new section to read:

3 **"§ 90-12.1B. Retired limited volunteer license.**

4           (a) The Board may issue a "retired limited volunteer license" to an applicant who is a  
5 physician and who has allowed his or her license to practice medicine and surgery in this State  
6 or another state to become inactive.

7           (b) A physician holding a limited license under this section shall comply with the  
8 continuing medical education requirements pursuant to rules adopted by the Board.

9           (c) The holder of a limited license under this section may practice medicine and surgery  
10 only at clinics that specialize in the treatment of indigent patients. The holder of the limited  
11 license may not receive compensation for services rendered at clinics specializing in the care of  
12 indigent patients.

13           (d) The Board shall issue a limited license under this section within 30 days after an  
14 applicant provides the Board with information satisfying the requirements of this section.

15           (e) The holder of a limited license issued pursuant to this section who practices  
16 medicine or surgery at places other than clinics that specialize in the treatment of indigent  
17 patients shall be guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not less  
18 than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) nor more than fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each offense. The  
19 Board, in its discretion, may revoke the limited license after due notice is given to the holder of  
20 the limited license.

21           (f) The Board may, by rule, require an applicant for a limited license under this section  
22 to comply with other requirements or submit additional information the Board deems  
23 appropriate."

24           **SECTION 3.** G.S. 90-13.1 reads as rewritten:

25 **"§ 90-13.1. License fees.**

26           (a) Each applicant for a license to practice medicine and surgery in this State under  
27 either G.S. 90-9.1 or G.S. 90-9.2 shall pay to the North Carolina Medical Board an application  
28 fee of three hundred fifty dollars (\$350.00).

29           (b) Each applicant for a limited license to practice in a medical education and training  
30 program under G.S. 90-12.01 shall pay to the Board a fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00).

31           (c) An applicant for a limited volunteer license under G.S. 90-12.1A or G.S. 90-12.1B  
32 shall not pay a fee.

33           (d) A fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) shall be paid for the issuance of a duplicate  
34 license.

35           (e) All fees shall be paid in advance to the North Carolina Medical Board, to be held in  
36 a fund for the use of the Board.

37           (f) For the initial and annual licensure of an anesthesiologist assistant, the Board may  
38 require the payment of a fee not to exceed one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00)."

39           **SECTION 4.** G.S. 90-13.2 reads as rewritten:

40 **"§ 90-13.2. Registration every year with Board.**

41           (a) Every person licensed to practice medicine by the North Carolina Medical Board  
42 shall register annually with the Board within 30 days of the person's birthday.

43           (b) A person who registers with the Board shall report to the Board the person's name  
44 and office and residence address and any other information required by the Board, and shall  
45 pay an annual registration fee of one hundred seventy-five dollars (\$175.00), except those who  
46 have a limited license to practice in a medical education and training program approved by the  
47 Board for the purpose of education or training shall pay a registration fee of one hundred  
48 twenty-five dollars ~~(\$125.00) and (\$125.00)~~, those who have a retired limited volunteer license  
49 pursuant to G.S. 90-12.1B shall pay an annual registration fee of twenty-five dollars ~~(\$25.00)-~~  
50 (\$25.00), and those who have a limited volunteer license pursuant to G.S. 90-12.1A shall pay  
51 no annual registration fee. However, licensees who have a limited license to practice for the

1 purpose of education and training under G.S. 90-12.01 shall not be required to pay more than  
2 one annual registration fee for each year of training.

3 (c) A physician who is not actively engaged in the practice of medicine in North  
4 Carolina and who does not wish to register the license may direct the Board to place the license  
5 on inactive status.

6 (d) A physician who is not actively engaged in the practice of medicine in North  
7 Carolina and who does not wish to register the license may direct the Board to place the license  
8 on inactive status.

9 (e) A physician who fails to register as required by this section shall pay an additional  
10 fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) to the Board. The license of any physician who fails to register and  
11 who remains unregistered for a period of 30 days after certified notice of the failure is  
12 automatically inactive. The Board shall retain jurisdiction over the holder of the inactive  
13 license.

14 (f) Except as provided in ~~G.S. 90-12.1A~~, G.S. 90-12.1B, a person whose license is  
15 inactive shall not practice medicine in North Carolina nor be required to pay the annual  
16 registration fee.

17 (g) Upon payment of all accumulated fees and penalties, the license of the physician  
18 may be reinstated, subject to the Board requiring the physician to appear before the Board for  
19 an interview and to comply with other licensing requirements. The penalty may not exceed the  
20 maximum fee for a license under G.S. 90-13.1."

21 **SECTION 5.** G.S. 90-21.16 reads as rewritten:

22 **"§ 90-21.16. Volunteer health care professionals; liability limitation.**

23 (a) This section applies as follows:

- 24 (1) Any volunteer medical or health care provider at a facility of a local health  
25 department or at a nonprofit community health center,
- 26 (2) Any volunteer medical or health care provider rendering services to a patient  
27 referred by a local health department as defined in ~~G.S. 130A-2(5)~~  
28 ~~or G.S. 130A-2(5)~~, nonprofit community health center, or nonprofit  
29 community health referral service at the provider's place of employment,
- 30 (3) Any volunteer medical or health care provider serving as medical director of  
31 an emergency medical services (EMS) ~~agency~~, agency, or
- 32 (4) ~~Any retired physician holding a "Limited Volunteer License" under~~  
33 ~~G.S. 90-12.1A, or~~
- 34 (5) Any volunteer medical or health care provider licensed or certified in this  
35 State who provides services within the scope of the provider's license or  
36 certification at a free clinic facility,

37 who receives no compensation for medical services or other related services rendered at the  
38 facility, center, agency, or clinic, or who neither charges nor receives a fee for medical services  
39 rendered to the patient referred by a local health ~~department~~ or department, nonprofit  
40 community health ~~center~~, or nonprofit community health referral service at the provider's  
41 place of employment shall not be liable for damages for injuries or death alleged to have  
42 occurred by reason of an act or omission in the rendering of the services unless it is established  
43 that the injuries or death were caused by gross negligence, wanton conduct, or intentional  
44 wrongdoing on the part of the person rendering the services. The free clinic, local health  
45 department facility, nonprofit community health center, nonprofit community health referral  
46 service, or agency shall use due care in the selection of volunteer medical or health care  
47 providers, and this subsection shall not excuse the free clinic, health department facility,  
48 community health center, or agency for the failure of the volunteer medical or health care  
49 provider to use ordinary care in the provision of medical services to its patients.

50 (b) Nothing in this section shall be deemed or construed to relieve any person from  
51 liability for damages for injury or death caused by an act or omission on the part of such person

1 while rendering health care services in the normal and ordinary course of his or her business or  
2 profession. Services provided by a medical or health care provider who receives no  
3 compensation for his or her services and who voluntarily renders such services at the provider's  
4 place of employment, facilities of free clinics, local health departments as defined in  
5 G.S. 130A-2, nonprofit community health centers, or as a volunteer medical director of an  
6 emergency medical services (EMS) agency, are deemed not to be in the normal and ordinary  
7 course of the volunteer medical or health care provider's business or profession.

8 (c) As used in this section, a "free clinic" is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt  
9 organization organized for the purpose of providing health care services without charge or for a  
10 minimum fee to cover administrative costs and that maintains liability insurance covering the  
11 acts and omissions of the free clinic and any liability pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

12 (d) A nonprofit community health referral service that refers low-income patients to  
13 physicians for free services is not liable for the acts or omissions of the physician in rendering  
14 service to that patient if the ~~physician maintains professional liability coverage for that~~  
15 ~~service.~~nonprofit community health center maintains liability insurance covering the acts and  
16 omissions of the nonprofit health referral service and any liability pursuant to subsection (a) of  
17 this section.

18 (e) As used in this section, a "nonprofit community health referral service" is a  
19 nonprofit, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization organized to provide for no charge the referral of  
20 low-income, uninsured patients to volunteer health care providers who provide health care  
21 services without charge to patients."

22 **SECTION 6.** This act is effective when it becomes law.