
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 876 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY TARTAGLIONE, DILLON, KANE, FONTANA, SCHWANK AND
COSTA, AUGUST 16, 2023

REFERRED TO CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE,
AUGUST 16, 2023

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, providing for alcohol and other drug
3 addiction continuing education.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Title 35 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
7 Statutes is amended by adding a chapter to read:

8 CHAPTER 59

9 ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG ADDICTION

10 CONTINUING EDUCATION

11 Sec.

12 5901. Definitions.

13 5902. Alcohol and other drug addiction continuing education.

14 § 5901. Definitions.

15 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter
16 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
17 context clearly indicates otherwise:

18 "Licensee." Any of the following:

1 (1) A physician as the term is defined under section 902
2 of the act of March 20, 2002 (P.L.154, No.13), known as the
3 Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error (Mcare) Act.

4 (2) A physician assistant as the term is defined in
5 section 2 of the act of December 20, 1985 (P.L.457, No.112),
6 known as the Medical Practice Act of 1985, or in section 2 of
7 the act of October 5, 1978 (P.L.1109, No.261), known as the
8 Osteopathic Medical Practice Act.

9 (3) A registered nurse as defined in 49 Pa. Code § 21.1
10 (relating to definitions).

11 (4) A certified registered nurse practitioner as the
12 term is defined in section 2 of the act of May 22, 1951
13 (P.L.317, No.69), known as The Professional Nursing Law.

14 (5) An individual licensed to practice as a licensed
15 practical nurse under the provisions of the act of March 2,
16 1956 (1955 P.L.1211, No.376), known as the Practical Nurse
17 Law.

18 "Licensing boards." The following:

19 (1) The State Board of Medicine.

20 (2) The State Board of Nursing.

21 (3) The State Board of Osteopathic Medicine.

22 "Warm handoff." The protocol developed by each single county
23 authority on drugs and alcohol under the Department of Drug and
24 Alcohol Programs' guidelines that, after medical stabilization,
25 provides for referral and transfer of individuals from emergency
26 medical care to specialty substance use disorder treatment.

27 § 5902. Alcohol and other drug addiction continuing education.

28 (a) Continuing education requirements.--Beginning with
29 licensure or certification periods that are active on or
30 commence on November 1, 2023, and maintained for all subsequent

1 license or certification renewal periods, each licensing board
2 shall implement a continuing education program on alcohol and
3 other drug addiction to be completed by each licensee applying
4 for license renewal with the respective licensing board. The
5 continuing education shall consist of no less than 10 hours of
6 educational material, counted as a portion of the total
7 continuing education required for renewal, and shall include all
8 of the following:

9 (1) Early warning signs of alcohol and other drug
10 addiction identification and referral skills.

11 (2) Training on utilization of the Department of Drug
12 and Alcohol Programs' warm handoff procedures developed and
13 maintained by each single county authority on drugs and
14 alcohol.

15 (3) Appropriate use of support groups for affected
16 individuals and for the families of affected individuals.

17 (b) Completion required.--Each licensing board shall require
18 each licensee applying for a license or certification renewal to
19 present evidence of completion of the continuing education
20 specified in subsection (a) as a condition of renewal.

21 (c) Exemption.--A licensee shall be exempt from the
22 provisions of this section if any of the following conditions
23 are met:

24 (1) The licensee holds a current temporary training
25 license.

26 (2) The licensee is retired and only provides care to
27 immediate family members.

28 (d) Waiver.--A licensing board may waive all or a portion of
29 the continuing education requirements specified in subsection
30 (a) for license or certification renewal to a licensee who

1 demonstrates to the satisfaction of the licensing board that the
2 licensee was unable to complete the requirements due to serious
3 illness, military service or other demonstrated hardship. A
4 waiver request shall be made in writing, with appropriate
5 documentation, and shall include a description of circumstances
6 sufficient to show why compliance is impossible. The licensing
7 board shall evaluate each waiver request on a case-by-case
8 basis. The licensing board shall send written notification of
9 its approval or denial of a waiver request to the licensee.

10 (e) Other license renewal requirements.--Nothing in this
11 chapter shall be construed to remove or alter any continuing
12 education or other license or certification renewal requirements
13 currently implemented and enforced by licensing boards.

14 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.