

A BILL

21-168

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



To amend the District of Columbia Health Occupations Revision Act of 1985 to require continuing education for health occupations on the subject of cultural competence and appropriate clinical treatment for individuals who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender nonconforming, queer, or questioning their sexual orientation or gender identity and expression.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “LGBTQ Cultural Competency Continuing Education Amendment Act of 2015”.

Sec. 2. Section 510 of the District of Columbia Health Occupations Revision Act of 1985, effective March 25, 1986 (D.C. Law 6-99; D.C. Official Code § 3-1205.10), is amended as follows:

(a) Subsection (b) is amended by adding a new paragraph (5) to read as follows:

“(5)(A) Except as provided in subsection (b-2) of this section, require continuing-education requirements for the practice of any health occupation licensed, registered, or certified under this section to include 2 credits of instruction on cultural competency or specialized clinical training focusing on patients who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender nonconforming, queer, or question their sexual orientation or gender identity and expression (“LGBTQ”).

28                   “(B) The instruction required by subparagraph (A) of this paragraph shall,  
29 at a minimum, provide information and skills to enable a health professional to care effectively  
30 and respectfully for patients who identify as LGBTQ, which may include:

31                   “(i) Specialized clinical training relevant to patients who identify  
32 as LGBTQ, including training on how to use cultural information and terminology to establish  
33 clinical relationships;

34                   “(ii) Training that improves the understanding and application, in a  
35 clinical setting, of relevant data concerning health disparities and risk factors for patients who  
36 identify as LGBTQ;

37                   “(iii) Training that outlines the legal obligations associated with  
38 treating patients who identify as LGBTQ;

39                   “(iv) Best practices for collecting, storing, using, and keeping  
40 confidential, information regarding sexual orientation and gender identity;

41                   “(v) Best practices for training support staff regarding the  
42 treatment of patients who identify as LGBTQ and their families;

43                   “(vi) Training that improves the understanding of the intersections  
44 between systems of oppression and discrimination and improves the recognition that those who  
45 identify as LGBTQ may experience these systems in varying degrees of intensity; and

46                   “(vii) Training that addresses underlying cultural biases aimed at  
47 improving the provision of nondiscriminatory care for patients who identify as LGBTQ.”.

48                   (b) A new subsection (b-2) is added to read as follows:

**ENGROSSED ORIGINAL**

49           “(b-2) The Mayor may waive by rule the requirement in subsection (b)(5) of this section  
50 for:

51                   “(1) Any health occupation licensed, registered, or certified under this section if  
52 members of that health occupation do not see patients in a clinical setting; or

53                   “(2) Any licensed health professional who can prove to the satisfaction of the  
54 relevant board that he or she did not see patients in a clinical setting in the District during the  
55 previous licensing cycle.”.

56           Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

57           The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal  
58 Impact statement required by section 602(c)(3) of the District of Columbia Home Rule  
59 Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(3)).

60           Sec. 4. Effective date.

61           This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the  
62 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as  
63 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December  
64 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of  
65 Columbia Register.