

HB 1985 -- HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS CULTURAL COMPETENCY ACT

SPONSOR: Gardner

This bill establishes the Health Care Professionals Cultural Competency Act that requires every licensing board in this state to require completion of cultural competency training as specified in the bill for any person authorized to practice the profession regulated by the licensing board. The Department of Health and Senior Services, in collaboration with the Department of Higher Education, must require any school of medicine, school of nursing, or any other institution of higher education or postsecondary educational program that provides training of health care professionals for licensure in this state to complete specified instruction in cultural competency designed to address the problem of race and gender-based disparities in medical treatment decisions as a condition of receiving a diploma.

In addition to any other continuing education requirements, each health care licensing board, in collaboration with the Department of Health and Senior Services, must require a person authorized to practice the profession regulated by the board to receive a minimum of one hour of department-approved cultural competency continuing education during the first renewal period in which continuing education is required and not less than once every three years thereafter. A licensing board must report biennially to the department on the participation, and the department must report the information to the General Assembly by August 1 of each even-numbered year.