

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021
4

As Engrossed: S4/19/21

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1439

5 By: Representative Pilkington
6 By: Senator C. Tucker
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO UPDATE THE VOLUNTEER HEALTH CARE ACT; TO
10 INCLUDE THERAPISTS, ADDICTION SPECIALISTS, AND
11 COUNSELORS IN THE VOLUNTEER HEALTHCARE PROGRAM; TO
12 INCREASE CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS UNDER THE
13 VOLUNTEER HEALTH CARE ACT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
14

Subtitle

15
16 TO UPDATE THE VOLUNTEER HEALTH CARE ACT;
17 AND TO INCLUDE THERAPISTS, ADDICTION
18 SPECIALISTS, AND COUNSELORS IN THE
19 VOLUNTEER HEALTHCARE PROGRAM.
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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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25 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 20-8-803(5), concerning the definition of
26 "medical professional" within the Volunteer Health Care Act, is amended to
27 read as follows:

28 (5) "Medical professional" means:

29 (A) A physician, osteopathic physician, or optometric
30 physician;

31 (B) An osteopathic physician's assistant, physician's
32 assistant, or optometric physician's assistant;

33 (C) A chiropractic physician;

34 (D) A podiatric physician;

35 (E) A nurse licensed under § 17-87-101 et seq.;

36 (F) A dentist, ~~or~~ dental hygienist, or dental assistant;



- 1 (G) A pharmacist;
- 2 (H) An optometrist;
- 3 (I) A therapist;
- 4 (J) An addiction specialist;
- 5 (K) A counselor;
- 6 (L) A healthcare professional who is licensed, certified,
- 7 or registered under Subtitle 3 of Title 17 of the Arkansas Code;
- 8 (M) A dietitian or an individual who offers dietary
- 9 services; and
- 10 ~~(J)~~(N) A student enrolled in an accredited program that
- 11 prepares the student for licensure in one (1) or more of the healthcare
- 12 professions listed in subdivisions~~(5)(A)-(H)~~ (5)(A)-(L) of this section.
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14 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 20-8-805(b), concerning the continuing
 15 education credit within the Volunteer Health Care Act, is amended to read as
 16 follows:

17 (b) A medical professional shall not obtain more than ~~eight (8)~~
 18 thirty-two (32) hours of credits as described in subsection (a) of this
 19 section in a licensing period.

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 22 /s/Pilkington

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 25 **APPROVED: 4/27/21**