

State of Arkansas
93rd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2021

As Engrossed: S4/19/21
A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1439

By: Representative Pilkington

By: Senator C. Tucker

For An Act To Be Entitled

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

Subtitle

TO UPDATE THE VOLUNTEER HEALTH CARE ACT;
AND TO INCLUDE THERAPISTS, ADDICTION
SPECIALISTS, AND COUNSELORS IN THE
VOLUNTEER HEALTHCARE PROGRAM.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 20-8-803(5), concerning the definition of "medical professional" within the Volunteer Health Care Act, is amended to read as follows:

(5) "Medical professional" means:

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

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

(C) A chiropractic physician;

(D) A podiatric physician;

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

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



(G) A pharmacist;
(H) An optometrist;
(I) A therapist;
(J) An addiction specialist;
(K) A counselor;
(L) A healthcare professional who is licensed, certified, or registered under Subtitle 3 of Title 17 of the Arkansas Code;
(M) A dietitian or an individual who offers dietary services; and
~~(J)~~(N) A student enrolled in an accredited program that prepares the student for licensure in one (1) or more of the healthcare professions listed in subdivisions~~(5)(A)-(H)~~ (5)(A)-(L) of this section.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 20-8-805(b), concerning the continuing education credit within the Volunteer Health Care Act, is amended to read as follows:

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

/s/Pilkington

APPROVED: 4/27/21