

**A9828-A** Cruz Same as S 1352 SERRANO

Education Law

TITLE. ...Requires cultural awareness and competence training for medical professionals

04/19/22 referred to higher education

04/25/22 amend and recommit to higher education

04/25/22 print number 9828a

---

**CRUZ**

Add §6505-d, Ed L; amd §2805-k, Pub Health L

Requires cultural awareness and competence training for medical professionals, including two hours of course work encompassing minority healthcare issues.

---

## STATE OF NEW YORK

9828--A

## IN ASSEMBLY

April 19, 2022

Introduced by M. of A. CRUZ -- read once and referred to the Committee on Higher Education -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the education law and the public health law, in relation to requiring cultural awareness and competence training for medical professionals

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new section 6505-d  
2 to read as follows:

3 § 6505-d. Course work or training in cultural awareness and compe-  
4 tence. 1. Every physician, physician assistant, dentist, registered  
5 nurse, licensed practical nurse, podiatrist, optometrist and nurse prac-  
6 titioner practicing in the state who provides direct medical services to  
7 patients in this state shall, on or before July first, two thousand  
8 twenty-two and every registration period thereafter, complete course  
9 work or training regarding cultural awareness and competence in the  
10 provision of medical services in accordance with regulated standards  
11 promulgated by the department, in consultation with the department of  
12 health. Such cultural awareness and competence course work or training  
13 shall require two hours of course work or training encompassing minority  
14 healthcare issues including ethnic, religious, linguistic, sexualorien-  
15 tation and gender identity healthcare issues and their impact on minori-  
16 ty healthcare. In promulgating regulatory standards pursuant to this  
17 section the department is advised to consult with organizations repre-  
18 sentative of professions, institutions and those with expertise in  
19 cultural awareness and competence.

20 2. As used in this section, "acceptable formal continuing education"  
21 shall mean formal programs of learning which contribute to professional  
22 practice and which meet the standards prescribed by regulations of the  
23 commissioner. To fulfill the mandatory continuing education requirement,  
24 programs must be taken from sponsors having the facilities, equipment,  
25 and financial and physical resources to provide continuing education  
26 courses, approved by the department, pursuant to the regulations of the  
27 commissioner. Continuing education may be provided in an internet-based  
28 course format as approved by the department.

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD03050-03-2

1 3. Each such professional shall attest to the department at the time  
2 of registration commencing with the first registration after July first,  
3 two thousand twenty-two that the professional has completed coursework  
4 or training in accordance with this section.

5 4. The department shall provide an exemption from this requirement to  
6 anyone who requests such an exemption and who: (i) clearly demonstrates  
7 to the department's satisfaction that there would be no need for him or  
8 her to complete such course work or training because of the nature of  
9 his or her practice; (ii) has completed course work or training deemed  
10 by the department to be equivalent to the course work or training  
11 approved by the department pursuant to this section; (iii) has completed  
12 course work or training pertaining to cultural awareness and competence  
13 which has been incorporated as part of a risk management course offered  
14 pursuant to subsection (e) of section two thousand three hundred forty-  
15 three of the insurance law, provided that such educational content has  
16 been approved by the superintendent of financial services; or (iv) is a  
17 medical professional who is on a tour of extended active duty with the  
18 armed forces of the United States.

19 5. At the beginning of each registration period, a mandatory continu-  
20 ing education fee of five dollars shall be collected from all persons  
21 required to complete the course work and training required by this  
22 section; provided that any person obtaining an exemption pursuant to  
23 subdivision four of this section shall not be required to pay such five  
24 dollar fee. This fee shall be in addition to all other existing regis-  
25 tration fees.

26 6. The commissioner is authorized to promulgate regulations to imple-  
27 ment the provisions of this section.

28 Any person subject to the provisions of this section, who falsely  
29 attests to having completed the required course work or training shall  
30 be subject to professional misconduct as provided by subdivision twen-  
31 ty-one of section sixty-five hundred thirty of this title and subdivi-  
32 sion nine of section sixty-five hundred nine of this title.

33 § 2. Paragraph (f) of subdivision 1 of section 2805-k of the public  
34 health law, as amended by chapter 477 of the laws of 2008, is amended  
35 and a new subdivision 5 is added to read as follows:

36 (f) Documentation that the physician, dentist or podiatrist has  
37 completed the course work or training as mandated by section two hundred  
38 thirty-nine of this chapter or section [~~six thousand five~~] sixty-five  
39 hundred five-b of the education law or section sixty-five hundred five-d  
40 of the education law. A hospital or facility shall not grant or renew  
41 professional privileges or association to a physician, dentist, or  
42 podiatrist who has not completed such course work or training. A hospi-  
43 tal or facility shall not knowingly grant or renew professional privi-  
44 leges or association to anyone required to complete course work or  
45 training unless said person has attested to having taken such required  
46 course work or training.

47 5. Prior to hiring or otherwise granting privileges to a physician  
48 assistant, registered nurse, licensed practical nurse or optometrist or  
49 a hospital or facility approved pursuant to this article shall request  
50 from such person documentation that he or she has completed the course  
51 work or training as mandated by section sixty-five hundred five-d of the  
52 education law. A hospital or facility shall not hire or otherwise grant  
53 privileges to a physician assistant, registered nurse, licensed practi-  
54 cal nurse or optometrist who has not completed such course work or  
55 training.

56 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

**NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY  
MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION  
submitted in accordance with Assembly Rule III, Sec 1(f)**

**BILL NUMBER:** A9828A

**SPONSOR:** Cruz

**TITLE OF BILL:**

An act to amend the education law and the public health law, in relation to requiring cultural awareness and competence training for medical professionals

**PURPOSE OR GENERAL IDEA OF BILL:**

This bill will create a system of cultural competency course work and training that will help healthcare professionals improve their interactions with minority patients. In doing so, this bill seeks to improve the quality of healthcare in the State of New York.

**SUMMARY OF SPECIFIC PROVISIONS:**

Add section 6505-d to the Education Law to establish training in cultural awareness and competence for medical professionals.

Section 1:

- 1) Lists medical professionals subject and establishes the content and requirements for cultural competency training and course work.
- 2) Defines "acceptable formal continuing education".
- 3) Establishes reporting requirements by medical professionals.
- 4) Provides exemptions from cultural competency course work and training.
- 5) Establishes a fee of five dollars.
- 6) Allows the commissioner to promulgate such rules as requires to establish this program successfully, and guards against false reporting from professionals.

Section 2:

f) Establishes that hospitals and other health care facilities shall not knowingly provide employment to individuals that have not completed the necessary course work and training.

**JUSTIFICATION:**

New York State is one of the most diverse states in the nation, with large populations of historically marginalized groups. Often members of

these minority groups face detrimental conditions with respect to their physical and mental well-being. Disparities in access to quality health care are one major component of the discrepancies in general health. This bill seeks to close the gap by ensuring that medical professionals that serve minority populations are able to provide culturally sensitive care. By promoting and funding culturally and linguistically sensitive practices by healthcare professionals, the legislature can help to enhance the quality of health care services in underserved communities. This legislation will play a crucial role in ending statewide health disparities among minority populations.

**PRIOR LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:**

2008: 5.7270 Serrano -. Referred to Higher Education

2009/2010: Senate Reported and Committed to codes. Assembly Referred to Higher Education.

2011-2012; S.2743A

2013-2014: A.9689

2016 A00770/S954-A referred to higher education 2017/18 A626.- referred to Higher Education

2021 - A.4515 - referred to Higher Education

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:**

No immediate costs to the state. The possibility exists for long term savings in health care costs as minority populations receive better preventative care.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:**

This act shall take effect immediately.