

Senate Bill 207

By: Senators Burke of the 11th, Kirkpatrick of the 32nd, Watson of the 1st, Unterman of the 45th, Kirk of the 13th and others

**AS PASSED**

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 10 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the  
2 Georgia Board for Physician Workforce, so as to change the name of such board to the  
3 Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce; to revise the board's membership; to provide for  
4 current members of the board to serve out their terms of office; to amend the Official Code  
5 of Georgia Annotated so as to conform cross-references; to provide for related matters; to  
6 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Chapter 10 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Georgia  
10 Board for Physician Workforce, is amended in Code Section 49-10-1, related to board for  
11 physician workforce, composition, expense allowances, staffing, and advisory committees,  
12 by revising subsection (a) as follows:

13 ~~"(a)(1) The Joint Board of Family Practice which existed on January 1, 1998, is~~  
14 ~~continued in existence but on and after July 1, 1998, shall become and be known as the~~  
15 ~~Georgia Board for Physician Workforce.~~ The Georgia Board for Physician Workforce  
16 which existed on January 1, 2019, is continued in existence but on and after July 1, 2019,  
17 shall become and be known as the Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce, referred to  
18 in this chapter as the 'board,' and shall be attached to the Department of Community  
19 Health for administrative purposes only, as defined by Code Section 50-4-3, except that  
20 such department shall prepare and submit the budget for that board in concurrence with  
21 that board.

22 (2) ~~The Georgia Board for Physician Workforce~~ board shall be composed of 15  
23 members, all of whom are residents of this state, as follows:

24 (A) ~~Five~~ Four members shall be primary care physicians, at least ~~three~~ two of whom  
25 shall be from rural areas;

26 (B) ~~Five~~ Four members shall be physicians who are not primary care physicians, at  
 27 least ~~three~~ two of whom shall practice in rural areas;

28 (C) Three members shall be representatives of hospitals which are not teaching  
 29 hospitals, with at least two of those three members being representatives of rural,  
 30 nonprofit hospitals, and two of such members shall be physicians;

31 (D) One member shall be a dentist;

32 (E) One member shall be a physician assistant;

33 (F) One member shall be a nurse practitioner; and

34 ~~(D) One member shall be a representative from the business community;~~

35 ~~(E)~~(G) One member shall have no connection with the practice of medicine or the  
 36 provision of health care, ~~and~~

37 ~~(F)~~ The physicians on the board shall represent a diversity of medical disciplines,  
 38 including, but not limited to, women's health, geriatrics, and children's health, and to the  
 39 greatest extent possible, shall be in the active practice of medicine providing direct  
 40 patient care. The board shall represent the gender, racial, and geographical diversity of  
 41 the state.

42 (3) All members of the board shall be appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the  
 43 Senate. All members of the board in office on July 1, 2019, shall continue to serve as a  
 44 member of the board until the expiration of his or her term of office. ~~The terms of office~~  
 45 ~~of all the members of the Joint Board of Family Practice shall expire July 1, 1998, but~~  
 46 ~~only at such time on or after that date when all 15 of the initial members of the Georgia~~  
 47 ~~Board of Physician Workforce have been appointed and qualified. No such initial~~  
 48 ~~member shall exercise any power under this chapter until all 15 members have been~~  
 49 ~~appointed and qualified. The initial members of the board who are appointed thereto~~  
 50 ~~shall take office for initial terms of office as follows:~~

51 ~~(A) Two primary care physicians, two physicians who are not primary care physicians,~~  
 52 ~~and one representative of a hospital which is not a teaching hospital shall be appointed~~  
 53 ~~to two-year terms of office;~~

54 ~~(B) Two primary care physicians, two physicians who are not primary care physicians,~~  
 55 ~~and one representative of a hospital which is not a teaching hospital shall be appointed~~  
 56 ~~to four-year terms of office; and~~

57 ~~(C) The remainder of the board shall be appointed to six-year terms of office.~~

58 ~~Thereafter, successors~~ Successors to such members shall be appointed for terms of six  
 59 years. ~~The Governor shall designate the term to which each initial member is appointed.~~  
 60 All members shall serve until their successors are appointed and qualified. Members  
 61 appointed under this paragraph shall be eligible to serve on the board until confirmed by  
 62 the Senate at the session of the General Assembly next following their appointment.

63 (4) In case of a vacancy on the board by reason of death or resignation of a member or  
 64 for any other cause other than the expiration of the member's term of office, the board  
 65 shall by secret ballot elect a temporary successor. If the General Assembly is in session,  
 66 the temporary successor shall serve until the end of that session. If the General Assembly  
 67 is not in session, the temporary successor shall serve until the end of the session next  
 68 following the vacancy or until the expiration of the vacated member's term of office,  
 69 whichever occurs first. The Governor shall appoint a permanent successor who shall be  
 70 confirmed by the Senate. The permanent successor shall take office on the first day after  
 71 the General Assembly adjourns and shall serve for the unexpired term and until his or her  
 72 successor is appointed and qualified.

73 (5) The office on the board of a member thereof who fails to attend more than three  
 74 consecutive regular meetings of the board, without excuse approved by resolution of the  
 75 board, shall become vacant."

76 **SECTION 2.**

77 The Official Code of Georgia Annotated is amended by replacing "Georgia Board for  
 78 Physician Workforce" with "Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce" wherever the former  
 79 term occurs in:

80 (1) Code Section 20-3-510, relating to board defined relative to medical scholarships;

81 (2) Code Section 20-3-513, relating to determination of amount by board, terms and  
 82 conditions, and repayment in services relative to medical scholarships;

83 (3) Code Section 31-2-16, relating to the creation of the Rural Health System Innovation  
 84 Center, its purposes and duties, and reporting;

85 (4) Code Section 31-7-95, relating to funding of medical education provided by hospital  
 86 authorities and designated teaching hospitals;

87 (5) Code Section 31-34-2, relating to purpose and intent of article relative to medical  
 88 professionals for rural areas assistance;

89 (6) Code Section 31-34-3, relating to administration by Georgia Board for Physician  
 90 Workforce;

91 (7) Code Section 31-34-20, relating to a grant program for physicians serving underserved  
 92 rural areas, eligibility qualifications, time of practice, and rules and regulations;

93 (8) Code Section 45-7-21, relating to expense allowance and travel cost reimbursement for  
 94 members of certain boards and commissions;

95 (9) Code Section 48-7-161, relating to definitions relative to setoff debt collection; and

96 (10) Code Section 49-10-3, relating to powers, duties, and responsibilities of the Georgia  
 97 Board for Physician Workforce.

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**SECTION 3.**

99 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.