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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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A N A C T

RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE
AND DISCIPLINE

Introduced By: Senators Valverde, DiMario, Miller, Gallo, Sosnowski, and Goldin

Date Introduced: April 23, 2021

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 5-37 of the General Laws entitled "Board of Medical Licensure and
2 Discipline" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **5-37-2.2. Prohibition of board certification requirement to practice medicine.**

4 Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, the board shall not require a
5 physician applicant or physician licensee under its jurisdiction to obtain or maintain a national or
6 regional board certification that is not otherwise specifically required in this chapter before it issues
7 a license or license renewal to that physician applicant or physician licensee under this chapter.

8 SECTION 2. Section 27-20.6-1 of the General Laws in Chapter 27-20.6 entitled "Health
9 Care Insurers - Coordination of Benefits" is hereby amended to read as follows:

10 **27-20.6-1. Definitions.**

11 As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

12 (1) "Continued board certification" means an ongoing recertification program through
13 which physicians are recertified in their medical specialty by one or more of the national or regional
14 medical boards. Continued board certification is separate from and in addition to any recertification
15 and continuing medical education requirements required pursuant to § 5-37-2.1;

16 (2) "Hospital" means a person or governmental entity licensed in accordance with chapter
17 17 of title 23 to establish, maintain, and operate a hospital.

18 (+)(3) "Insurer" means every nonprofit medical service corporation, hospital service

1 corporation, health maintenance organization, or other insurer offering and/or insuring health
2 services; the term shall in addition include any entity defined as an insurer under § 42-62-4; ~~and~~

3 (4) "Physician" means a person with a license to practice allopathic or osteopathic
4 medicine; and

5 ~~(5)~~ (5) "Primary insurer" means the insurer primarily liable in accordance with the anti-
6 duplication provisions established by regulations promulgated by the director of business
7 regulation.

8 SECTION 3. Chapter 27-20.6 of the General Laws entitled "Health Care Insurers -
9 Coordination of Benefits" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

10 **27-20.6-3.1. Continued board certification not to be considered in coordination of**
11 **benefits.**

12 (a) An insurer shall not:

13 (1) Deny reimbursement to a physician or hospital for services rendered because the
14 physician or any physicians within the hospital have not completed continued board certification.

15 (2) Provide lower reimbursement for services rendered by a physician or hospital because
16 the physician or any physicians within the hospital have not completed continued board
17 certification.

18 (3) Prohibit a physician or hospital from participating in any of the insurer's provider
19 networks because the physician or any physicians within the hospital have not completed continued
20 board certification.

21 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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1 This act would prohibit the board of medical licensure and discipline from requiring
2 specialty board certification as a condition of licensure. This act also provides that a health care
3 insurer shall not deny reimbursement or provide lower reimbursement rates to a physician or
4 hospital, based on a physician's decision whether or not to participate in a national continued board
5 certification program.

6 This act would take effect upon passage.

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