SYNOPSIS

Requires physicians to complete survey as condition for biennial registration with Board of Medical Examiners and requires board to maintain and disseminate survey data as appropriate.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As amended by the Senate on October 4, 2012.

AN ACT providing for a survey of physicians practicing in this State and supplementing Titles 26 and 45 of the Revised Statutes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:
1. The Department of Health and Senior Services, in collaboration with the State Board of Medical Examiners, shall develop a survey and testing methodology for the survey, which physicians shall be required to complete pursuant to section 2 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill). The survey shall include questions relating to the physician’s professional practice, including, but not limited to, the following information:

   (1) whether the physician works full time, part time, or is retired;
   (2) the percent of time spent in clinical practice, teaching, and research, as applicable;
   (3) the address of each of the physician’s practice sites; the amount of time spent practicing at each site; the primary and secondary specialties practiced at each site; and the type of facility in which each practice is located;
   (4) the number of office staff employed at each practice site;
   (5) the number of physicians working at each practice site;
   (6) the number of hospitals at which the physician has admitting privileges;
   (7) the extent to which the principal practice site uses electronic health records;
   (8) the specific uses of computerized systems at the principal practice site;
   (9) whether, in the next 24 months, the physician intends to retire, reduce patient care hours and, if so, the extent of the reduction, cease providing certain diagnostic or clinical services, or hire new physicians, nurse practitioners, or physician assistants;
   (10) whether the physician is accepting additional patients in the physician’s practice, including Medicare and Medicaid recipients, patients covered by commercial insurance, or uninsured patients;
   (11) the cost incurred by the physician for medical malpractice liability insurance coverage, and whether the coverage is paid for by the physician’s employer; and
   (12) the State and country in which the physician resided upon graduation from high school, upon graduation from medical school, and during the physician’s most recent residency.

2. a. The State Board of Medical Examiners shall require each physician licensed to practice medicine and surgery in this State, as a condition for biennial registration pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1971, c.236 (C.45:9-6.1), to complete an online survey, developed pursuant to section 1 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), on the Internet website of the board. The board shall not condition a physician’s biennial registration on the response that the physician provides to any question included in the survey.

   b. The board shall compile the survey results completed pursuant to subsection a. of this section and shall serve as the repository of the survey results. The data obtained from the survey that [is] are to be made available to entities pursuant to subsection c. of this section shall not link a physician’s name and scope of practice in any manner that any physician completing the survey may be identified.

   c. The board shall maintain a record of the survey data and shall make the data available within 30 calendar days of a request from:

   (1) other State entities or programs as they may require or deem appropriate for the performance of their duties pursuant to State or federal law or regulations, or as may be required for any State entity or program to
obtain federal funds as may be made available to the State for purposes that relate to the information contained in the survey results; and

(2) medical professional societies, medical schools, and other organizations representing health care providers or involved with physician work force planning, in this State, upon their written request and at no charge to these entities, in a manner to be determined by the board.

3. This act shall take effect immediately.