

SENATE No. 1147

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Richard T. Moore

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to volunteer physicians.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Richard T. Moore

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

SENATE No. 1147

By Mr. Moore, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1147) of Richard T. Moore for legislation relative to volunteer physicians. Public Health.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 846 OF 2009-2010.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act relative to volunteer physicians.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 112 of the general laws is hereby amended by inserting
2 after section 2C, as appearing in the 2008 Official Edition, the following section:-

3 Section 2D. (a) The board may grant or renew a certificate of registration to a
4 physician qualified for registration or renewal of the same under this chapter in order for the
5 physician to participate in the free care program operated by a non-profit organization. The scope
6 of practice of a physician whose certificate of registration is granted or renewed pursuant to this
7 section may be restricted as the board may provide by regulation.

8 (b) In order to qualify for a license for volunteer practice, an applicant shall
9 meet the requirements for a regular license under this chapter, in addition to the requirements set
10 forth below. An applicant shall submit to the board a completed application on forms

11 prescribed by the board; any additional information that the board requests; and a fee established
12 for a volunteer license under section 3B of chapter 7. An applicant shall agree to the conditions
13 on practice promulgated by the board.

14 (c) The board's application form for a license for volunteer practice shall
15 include a request for the following information:

16 (1) a written statement from the applicant outlining the scope and
17 duration of services to be provided by the applicant;

18 (2) a written statement from the director of the applicant's proposed
19 work site outlining the scope and duration of the applicant's responsibilities; and

20 (3) evidence satisfactory to the board that, in the proposed work site,
21 the volunteer physician will be serving primarily a low-income community, or a community with
22 limited access to medical care.

23 (d) If an applicant has met all of the requirements of this section to the
24 satisfaction of the board, the applicant shall be granted a license for volunteer practice and
25 entitled to a certificate of registration signed by the chairman and the secretary of the board. A
26 licensee engaged in volunteer practice may practice medicine only at a work site approved in
27 conjunction with his license application; shall be subject to the same conditions and
28 responsibilities as a regular licensee; and may not accept any compensation for the practice of
29 medicine.

30 SECTION 2. The board of registration in medicine shall promulgate
31 regulations to carry out section 1 not later than 3 months following the effective date of this act.

32 SECTION 3. The commissioner of public health, or his designee, shall study
33 the impact of the Federal Volunteer Protection Act of 1997 on health care volunteers in the
34 commonwealth. The commissioner shall review ways in which the commonwealth may act to
35 provide legal counsel and defense to volunteers who may be eligible for the protections afforded
36 in the Volunteer Protection Act. The commissioner shall report the results of the review by
37 filing the same with the joint committee on health care, together with recommendation for
38 legislation, if any, by December 31, 2012.