

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1073**

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**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:

*Worcester and Norfolk*

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1073**

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By Mr. Richard T. Moore, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1073) of Richard T. Moore for legislation relative to volunteer physicians. Public Health.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 1147 OF 2011-2012.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen**  
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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, as appearing in the 2010 Official Edition,  
2 is hereby amended by inserting after section 2C the following section:-

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

8 (b) In order to qualify for a license for volunteer practice, an applicant shall meet the  
9 requirements for a regular license under this chapter, in addition to the requirements set forth  
10 below. An applicant shall submit to the board a completed application on forms prescribed by  
11 the board; any additional information that the board requests; and a fee established for a  
12 volunteer license under section 3B of chapter 7. An applicant shall agree to the conditions on  
13 practice promulgated by the board.

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

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

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

20 (3) evidence satisfactory to the board that, in the proposed work site, the  
21 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 satisfaction of the  
24 board, the applicant shall be granted a license for volunteer practice and entitled to a certificate  
25 of registration signed by the chairman and the secretary of the board. A licensee engaged in  
26 volunteer practice may practice medicine only at a work site approved in conjunction with his  
27 license application; shall be subject to the same conditions and responsibilities as a regular  
28 licensee; and may not accept any compensation for the practice of medicine.

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

31 SECTION 3. The commissioner of public health, or his designee, shall study the impact  
32 of the Federal Volunteer Protection Act of 1997 on health care volunteers in the commonwealth.  
33 The commissioner shall review ways in which the commonwealth may act to provide legal  
34 counsel and defense to volunteers who may be eligible for the protections afforded in the  
35 Volunteer Protection Act. The commissioner shall report the results of the review by filing the  
36 same with the joint committee on health care, together with recommendation for legislation, if  
37 any, by December 31, 2014.