

MEDICAL SOCIETY
of the
STATE OF NEW YORK

Morris Auster, Esq.
Senior Vice President /
Chief Legislative Counsel

Division of Governmental Affairs
MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

ON SENATE FLOOR (Cal #626)

S. 5280 (RIVERA)

IN ASSEMBLY HEALTH COMMITTEE

A. 5140 (SCHIMMINGER)

An ACT to amend the public health law and the insurance law, in relation to improper practices relating to staff membership or professional privileges of a physician and board certification

This bill would amend the public health and insurance laws to prohibit health insurance companies and hospitals from requiring that their participating network and staff physicians continue to complete often unnecessarily burdensome Maintenance of Certification requirements as a condition of participation in their panels and medical staffs. **The Medical Society of the State of New York supports this legislation.**

The cost of updating board certification status is increasingly becoming prohibitively expensive and time-consuming for many physicians at a time when they are already being squeezed between rapidly increasing office overhead costs and cuts in insurer payment. With demands on physician time greater than ever before (which is leading to a significant increase in “burnout”), many physicians find that they do not have sufficient time to prepare for ever more cumbersome specialty recertification exams. For older physicians, these excessive and unnecessary hardships to maintaining board certification may be the last straw to their continuing to deliver patient care, potentially disrupting many existing patient-physician relationships. Unfortunately, some health insurers and hospitals require physicians to continue to endure this often overly burdensome process. While efforts are being made by some of the national specialty boards to simplify this re-credentialing process in response to an outcry from the physician community about these excessive requirements, the needed relief is not happening quickly enough. This bill would help to ensure that continuing board certification remains aspirational for physicians, but not mandatory, by ensuring that hospitals and health insurance companies cannot impose such ongoing requirements as a condition of participation, thereby reducing one barrier to delivering medical care in New York State.

For the above reasons, the Medical Society of the State of New York supports this measure and urges its enactment.

Respectfully submitted,

MSSNY DIVISION OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

MMA-Support
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