

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2024 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **Senate Bill 297**

By Senator Woodrum

[Introduced January 11, 2024; referred  
to the Committee on Government Organization]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §30-1-7a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to  
 2 state boards of examination or registration; providing that continuing education credits  
 3 shall be valid for three years; and providing that boards may choose to extend the amount  
 4 of time credits may be valid, up to an additional three years.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

**ARTICLE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL STATE BOARDS OF  
 EXAMINATION OR REGISTRATION REFERRED TO IN CHAPTER.**

**§30-1-7a. Continuing education.**

1 (a) A board referred to in this chapter shall establish continuing education requirements as  
 2 a prerequisite to license renewal. A board shall develop continuing education criteria appropriate  
 3 to its discipline, which shall include, but not be limited to, course content, course approval, hours  
 4 required, and reporting periods.

5 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code or the provision of a legislative rule to  
 6 the contrary, continuing education credits obtained to meet licensing requirements of this chapter  
 7 shall be valid for three years. Each individual board under this chapter may choose to extend the  
 8 time that continuing education credits are valid, up to an additional three years.

9 (b) (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code, a person issued an initial license to  
 10 practice medicine and surgery, a license to practice podiatry or licensed as a physician assistant  
 11 by the West Virginia Board of Medicine; a person issued a license to practice dentistry by the West  
 12 Virginia Board of Dental Examiners; a person issued a license to practice optometry by the West  
 13 Virginia Board of Optometry, a person licensed as a pharmacist by the West Virginia Board of  
 14 Pharmacy; a person licensed to practice registered professional nursing or licensed as an  
 15 advanced nurse practitioner by the West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional  
 16 Nurses; a person licensed as a licensed practical nurse by the West Virginia State Board of  
 17 Examiners for Licensed Practical Nurses; and a person licensed to practice medicine and surgery

18 as an osteopathic physician and surgeon, or licensed or certified as an osteopathic as physician  
19 assistant by the West Virginia Board of Osteopathy shall complete drug diversion training, best-  
20 practice prescribing of controlled substances training, and training on prescribing and  
21 administering an opioid antagonist if that person prescribes, administers, or dispenses a  
22 controlled substance as that term is defined in §60A-1-101 of this code.

23 A person who receives his or her initial license or certificate from any of the boards set forth  
24 in this section shall complete the continuing education requirements set forth in this section within  
25 one year of receiving his or her initial license from that board.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill relates to boards of examination or registration; to provide that continuing education credits shall be valid for three years; and to provide that boards may choose to extend the amount of time credits may be valid, up to an additional three years.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.