

House Bill 626 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Graves of the 12<sup>th</sup>, Rynders of the 152<sup>nd</sup>, Lunsford of the 110<sup>th</sup>, Cooper of the 41<sup>st</sup>, and Peake of the 137<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 34 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 physicians, acupuncture, physician's assistants, cancer and glaucoma treatment, respiratory  
3 care, clinical perfusionists, and orthotics and prosthetics practice, so as to provide for a  
4 maximum number of continuing education hours that retired physicians providing  
5 uncompensated health care services shall be required to complete; to provide for related  
6 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Chapter 34 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to physicians,  
10 acupuncture, physician's assistants, cancer and glaucoma treatment, respiratory care, clinical  
11 perfusionists, and orthotics and prosthetics practice, is amended in Code Section 43-34-3,  
12 relating to continuing education requirements for physicians and others, as follows:

13 "43-34-3.

14 (a)(1) The board shall be authorized to require persons seeking renewal of a license or  
15 certificate under this chapter to complete board approved continuing education of not less  
16 than 40 hours biennially. The board shall be authorized to approve courses offered by  
17 institutions of higher learning, specialty societies, or professional organizations,  
18 including, but not limited to, the American Medical Association, the National Medical  
19 Association, and the American Osteopathic Association, the number of hours required,  
20 and the category in which these hours should be earned. This paragraph shall not apply  
21 to respiratory care professionals or persons seeking renewal of certification as respiratory  
22 care professionals.

23 (2) The board shall be authorized to require persons seeking renewal of certification as  
24 respiratory care professionals under Article 6 of this chapter to complete board approved  
25 continuing education. The board shall be authorized to establish the number of hours of  
26 continuing education required biennially for renewal of certification as a respiratory care

1 professional and the categories in which these hours should be earned. The board shall  
2 be authorized to approve courses offered by institutions of higher learning, specialty  
3 societies, or professional organizations. Any action taken by the board pursuant to this  
4 paragraph shall be taken in conformity with the provisions of Code Section 43-34-143.

5 (b)(1) The board shall be authorized to waive the continuing education requirement in  
6 cases of hardship, disability, illness, or in cases where physicians or physicians' assistants  
7 are serving in fellowships, new specialty residencies, postgraduate specialty programs,  
8 the United States Congress, or under such other circumstances as the board deems  
9 appropriate.

10 (2) The board shall require no more than 20 hours of continuing education annually for  
11 retired physicians who have an active license and who provide uncompensated health  
12 care services pursuant to Code Section 43-34-45.1 or Article 8 of Chapter 8 of Title 31;  
13 provided, however, the board shall be authorized to require up to 40 hours of continuing  
14 education for retired physicians who have not had an active license to practice medicine  
15 for up to five years.

16 (c) The board shall be authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to implement and  
17 ensure compliance with the requirements of this Code section.

18 (d) This Code section shall apply to each licensing, certification, and renewal cycle which  
19 begins after the 1990-1991 renewal."

## 20 SECTION 2.

21 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.