

House Bill 844

By: Representative Marin of the 96th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 1 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 general provisions relative to professions and businesses, so as to require continuing
3 education in cultural competency for licensure of health care professionals to address
4 disparities in medical treatment decisions based on race, ethnicity, and gender; to provide for
5 legislative findings; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
6 purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Chapter 1 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general
10 provisions relative to professions and businesses, is amended by adding a new Code section
11 to the end thereof to read as follows:

12 "43-1-32.

13 (a) The General Assembly finds that there are disparities in the outcomes of health care
14 based on race, ethnicity, and gender. The General Assembly further finds that cultural
15 awareness and cultural competence are essential skills for providing quality health care to
16 a diverse patient population in this state. The General Assembly declares that a public
17 interest is served in providing quality health care to all segments of society and that this
18 dictates the need for the cultural competency education of health care professionals in this
19 state.

20 (b) The initial requirements and continuing competency requirements for licensure of
21 physicians, podiatrists, physicians' assistants, chiropractors, dentists, dental hygienists,
22 registered professional nurses, and licensed practical nurses pursuant to this chapter and
23 for pharmacists pursuant to Chapter 4 of Title 26 shall include the completion of a course
24 in cultural competency at least once every two years; provided, however, that the respective
25 professional licensing board may in its discretion require completion of the course more
26 frequently. The respective professional licensing boards shall approve or design such a

27 course to address the problem of disparities in medical treatment decisions based on race,
28 ethnicity, and gender. The course shall include essential skills for providing quality
29 culturally competent health care to diverse patient populations and shall be sufficient to
30 update health care providers on new research findings or national treatment guidelines
31 related to health care decisions based on race, ethnicity, and gender."

32 **SECTION 2.**

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