Senate Bill 207
By: Senators Burke of the 11th, Kirkpatrick of the 32nd, Watson of the 1st, Unterman of the 45th, Kirk of the 13th and others

AS PASSED

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend Chapter 10 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Georgia Board for Physician Workforce, so as to change the name of such board to the Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce; to revise the board's membership; to provide for current members of the board to serve out their terms of office; to amend the Official Code of Georgia Annotated so as to conform cross-references; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Chapter 10 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Georgia Board for Physician Workforce, is amended in Code Section 49-10-1, related to board for physician workforce, composition, expense allowances, staffing, and advisory committees, by revising subsection (a) as follows:

"(a)(1) The Joint Board of Family Practice which existed on January 1, 1998, is continued in existence but on and after July 1, 1998, shall become and be known as the Georgia Board for Physician Workforce. The Georgia Board for Physician Workforce which existed on January 1, 2019, is continued in existence but on and after July 1, 2019, shall become and be known as the Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce, referred to in this chapter as the 'board,' and shall be attached to the Department of Community Health for administrative purposes only, as defined by Code Section 50-4-3, except that such department shall prepare and submit the budget for that board in concurrence with that board.

(2) The Georgia Board for Physician Workforce board shall be composed of 15 members, all of whom are residents of this state, as follows:

(A) Five Four members shall be primary care physicians, at least three two of whom shall be from rural areas;
(B) Five members shall be physicians who are not primary care physicians, at
least three of whom shall practice in rural areas;

(C) Three members shall be representatives of hospitals which are not teaching
hospitals, with at least two of those three members being representatives of rural,
nonprofit hospitals, and two of such members shall be physicians;

(D) One member shall be a dentist;

(E) One member shall be a physician assistant;

(F) One member shall be a nurse practitioner; and

(G) One member shall be a representative from the business community;

One member shall have no connection with the practice of medicine or the
 provision of health care; and

The physicians on the board shall represent a diversity of medical disciplines,
including, but not limited to, women's health, geriatrics, and children's health, and to the
greatest extent possible, shall be in the active practice of medicine providing direct
patient care. The board shall represent the gender, racial, and geographical diversity of
the state.

(3) All members of the board shall be appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the
Senate. All members of the board in office on July 1, 2019, shall continue to serve as a
member of the board until the expiration of his or her term of office. The terms of office
of all the members of the Joint Board of Family Practice shall expire July 1, 1998, but
only at such time on or after that date when all 15 of the initial members of the Georgia
Board of Physician Workforce have been appointed and qualified. No such initial
member shall exercise any power under this chapter until all 15 members have been
appointed and qualified. The initial members of the board who are appointed thereto
shall take office for initial terms of office as follows:

(A) Two primary care physicians, two physicians who are not primary care physicians,
and one representative of a hospital which is not a teaching hospital shall be appointed
to two-year terms of office;

(B) Two primary care physicians, two physicians who are not primary care physicians,
and one representative of a hospital which is not a teaching hospital shall be appointed
to four-year terms of office; and

(C) The remainder of the board shall be appointed to six-year terms of office.

Thereafter, successors to such members shall be appointed for terms of six
years. The Governor shall designate the term to which each initial member is appointed.
All members shall serve until their successors are appointed and qualified. Members
appointed under this paragraph shall be eligible to serve on the board until confirmed by
the Senate at the session of the General Assembly next following their appointment.
(4) In case of a vacancy on the board by reason of death or resignation of a member or for any other cause other than the expiration of the member's term of office, the board shall by secret ballot elect a temporary successor. If the General Assembly is in session, the temporary successor shall serve until the end of that session. If the General Assembly is not in session, the temporary successor shall serve until the end of the session next following the vacancy or until the expiration of the vacated member's term of office, whichever occurs first. The Governor shall appoint a permanent successor who shall be confirmed by the Senate. The permanent successor shall take office on the first day after the General Assembly adjourns and shall serve for the unexpired term and until his or her successor is appointed and qualified.

(5) The office on the board of a member thereof who fails to attend more than three consecutive regular meetings of the board, without excuse approved by resolution of the board, shall become vacant.

SECTION 2.

The Official Code of Georgia Annotated is amended by replacing "Georgia Board for Physician Workforce" with "Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce" wherever the former term occurs in:

(1) Code Section 20-3-510, relating to board defined relative to medical scholarships;
(2) Code Section 20-3-513, relating to determination of amount by board, terms and conditions, and repayment in services relative to medical scholarships;
(3) Code Section 31-2-16, relating to the creation of the Rural Health System Innovation Center, its purposes and duties, and reporting;
(4) Code Section 31-7-95, relating to funding of medical education provided by hospital authorities and designated teaching hospitals;
(5) Code Section 31-34-2, relating to purpose and intent of article relative to medical professionals for rural areas assistance;
(6) Code Section 31-34-3, relating to administration by Georgia Board for Physician Workforce;
(7) Code Section 31-34-20, relating to a grant program for physicians serving underserved rural areas, eligibility qualifications, time of practice, and rules and regulations;
(8) Code Section 45-7-21, relating to expense allowance and travel cost reimbursement for members of certain boards and commissions;
(9) Code Section 48-7-161, relating to definitions relative to setoff debt collection; and
(10) Code Section 49-10-3, relating to powers, duties, and responsibilities of the Georgia Board for Physician Workforce.
SECTION 3.

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