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SENATE BILL NO. 474

Senate Amendments in [] — February 14, 1994

A BILL to amend and reenact § 54.1-2906 of the Code of Virginia, relating to required reporting by hospitals and other health care institutions of disciplinary actions and certain disorders.

Patrons—Barry and Calhoun

Referred to the Committee on Education and Health

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 54.1-2906 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 54.1-2906. Hospitals and other health care institutions required to report disciplinary actions against and certain disorders of health professionals; immunity from liability.

A. The chief administrative officer and the chief of staff of every hospital or other health care institution in the Commonwealth shall report to the appropriate board the following information regarding any person licensed by a health regulatory board unless exempted under subsection D:

1. Any information of which he may become aware in his official capacity indicating that such a health professional is in need of treatment or has been committed or admitted as a patient, either at his institution or at any other health care institution, for treatment of substance abuse or a psychiatric illness which may render the health professional a danger to himself, the public or his patients.

2. Any information of which he may become aware in his official capacity indicating that such health professional may be guilty of unethical, fraudulent or unprofessional conduct as defined by the pertinent licensing statutes and regulations.

3. Any disciplinary action, including but not limited to denial or termination of employment, denial or termination of privileges or restriction of privileges, while under investigation or during disciplinary proceedings, taken or begun by the institution as a result of conduct involving professional ethics, professional incompetence, moral turpitude, or substance abuse.

4. The voluntary resignation from the staff of the health care institution or voluntary restriction or expiration of privileges at the institution of any health professional while such health professional is under investigation or is the subject of disciplinary proceedings taken or begun by the institution or a committee thereof for any reason related to possible medical incompetence, unprofessional conduct, moral turpitude, mental or physical impairment, or substance abuse.

Any report required by this section shall be in writing directed to the secretary of the appropriate board, shall give the name and address of the person who is the subject of the report and shall fully describe the circumstances surrounding the facts required to be reported. Any report required by this section concerning the commitment or admission of such health professional as a patient shall be made within five days of when the chief administrative officer learns of such commitment or admission.

The provisions of § 8.01-581.17 shall not bar (i) any initial report required by this section or (ii) any requested [~~information or medical~~] records which are necessary to investigate unprofessional conduct reported pursuant to this subtitle or unprofessional conduct that should have been reported pursuant to this subtitle.

B. The State Health Commissioner shall report to the appropriate board any information of which the Department of Health may become aware in the course of its duties indicating that such a health professional may be guilty of fraudulent, unethical or unprofessional conduct as defined by the pertinent licensing statutes and regulations.

C. Any person making a report required by this section or testifying in a judicial or administrative proceeding as a result of such report shall be immune from any civil liability alleged to have resulted therefrom unless such person acted in bad faith or with malicious intent.

D. Medical records or information learned or maintained in connection with an alcohol or drug prevention function which is conducted, regulated, or directly or indirectly assisted by any department or agency of the United States shall be exempt from the reporting requirements of this section to the extent that such reporting is in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 1175(a), 42 U.S.C. § 4582(a), or regulations promulgated thereunder.

ENGROSSED

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