

# 45:9-7.2

## LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

Compiled by the NJ State Law Library

**LAWS OF:** 2005 **CHAPTER:** 53

**NJSA:** 45:9-7.2 (Requires physician cultural competency training as a condition of licensure)

**BILL NO:** S144 (A492 Combined with S144)

**SPONSOR(S):** Bryant and others

**DATE INTRODUCED:** Pre-filed

**COMMITTEE:** **ASSEMBLY:**  
**SENATE:** Commerce

**AMENDED DURING PASSAGE:** Yes

**DATE OF PASSAGE:** **ASSEMBLY:** January 24, 2005

**SENATE:** February 14, 2005

**DATE OF APPROVAL:** March 24, 2005

**FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:**

[FINAL TEXT OF BILL](#) Senate Substitute (1R) for S144/A492

**S144**

[SPONSOR'S STATEMENT:](#) (Begins on page 3 of original bill) [Yes](#)

**COMMITTEE STATEMENT:** **ASSEMBLY:** No

[SENATE:](#) [Yes](#)

[FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:](#) [Yes](#)

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:** No

**A492**

[SPONSOR'S STATEMENT:](#) (Begins on page 3 of original bill) [Yes](#)

**COMMITTEE STATEMENT:** [ASSEMBLY:](#) [Yes](#)

**SENATE:** No

**FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:** No

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:** No

**VETO MESSAGE:** No

[GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:](#) [Yes](#)

**FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:**

To check for circulating copies, contact New Jersey State Government Publications at the State Library (609) 278-2640 ext. 103 or

<mailto:refdesk@njstatelib.org>

**REPORTS:**

No

**HEARINGS:**

No

**NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:**

No

IS 4/10/07

P.L. 2005, CHAPTER 53, *approved March 24, 2005*  
Senate Substitute (*First Reprint*) for  
Senate, No. 144 and Senate Substitute for Assembly, No. 492

1 **AN ACT** concerning medical education and supplementing chapter 9  
2 of Title 45 of the Revised Statutes.

3  
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

6  
7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. The findings of a recently reported, federally-funded study by  
9 Georgetown University, in conjunction with the Rand Corporation and  
10 the University of Pennsylvania, which were published in the New  
11 England Journal of Medicine, indicate that physicians are far less likely  
12 to refer blacks and women than white men with identical complaints  
13 of chest pain to heart specialists for cardiac catheterization; and the  
14 authors of this study suggest that the difference in referral rates stems  
15 from racial and sexual biases;

16 b. These findings are the latest in a growing body of medical  
17 literature which documents race and gender-based disparities in the  
18 provision of health care, especially in the treatment of cardiovascular  
19 disease; however, according to the Surgeon General of the United  
20 States, the Georgetown University study represents the best attempt  
21 to date to document the racial attitudes of physicians as a factor in the  
22 poorer health of African Americans;

23 c. It is estimated that the minority population in the United States  
24 will increase by 60% between now and the year 2010;

25 d. Cultural awareness and cultural competence are essential skills  
26 for providing quality health care to a diverse patient population;

27 e. Only a small percentage of medical schools nationwide currently  
28 provide some formal training in cultural competence;

29 f. The Association of American Medical Colleges is working to  
30 help medical schools improve the teaching of cultural competency; and

31 g. The public interest in providing quality health care to all  
32 segments of society dictates the need for a formal requirement that  
33 medical professionals be trained in the provision of culturally  
34 competent health care as a condition of licensure to practice medicine  
35 in New Jersey.

36

37 2. The State Board of Medical Examiners shall prescribe the

**EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and intended to be omitted in the law.**

**Matter underlined thus is new matter.**

**Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:**

**<sup>1</sup> Assembly floor amendments adopted December 13, 2004.**

1 following requirements for physician training, by regulation, in  
2 consultation with the Commission on Higher Education:

3 a. The curriculum in each college of medicine in this State shall  
4 include instruction in cultural competency designed to address the  
5 problem of race and gender-based disparities in medical treatment  
6 decisions and developed in consultation with the Association of  
7 American Medical Colleges or another nationally recognized  
8 organization which reviews medical school curricula.

9 b. Completion of cultural competency instruction as provided in  
10 subsection a. of this section shall be required as a condition of  
11 receiving a diploma from a college of medicine in this State.

12 c. A college of medicine which includes instruction in cultural  
13 competency as provided in subsection a. of this section in its curricula  
14 shall offer for continuing education credit, cultural competency  
15 training which is provided through classroom instruction, workshops  
16 or other educational programs sponsored by the college and which  
17 meets criteria established by the board consistent with the instruction  
18 developed pursuant to subsection a. of this section.

19 d. A person who received a diploma from a college of medicine in  
20 this State prior to the effective date of this act, who was not required  
21 to receive and did not receive instruction in cultural competency as  
22 part of a medical school curriculum, shall be required as a condition of  
23 relicensure by the board, to document completion of cultural  
24 competency training which is offered pursuant to subsection c. of this  
25 section to the satisfaction of the board. The training required by this  
26 subsection shall be in addition to any continuing medical education  
27 required pursuant to section 10 of P.L.2001, c.<sup>1</sup>[37] 307<sup>1</sup> (C.45:9-  
28 7.1).

29 e. A physician licensed to practice medicine in this State prior to  
30 the effective date of this act, who was not required to receive and did  
31 not receive instruction in cultural competency as part of a medical  
32 school curriculum, shall be required, as a condition of relicensure, to  
33 document completion of cultural competency training which is offered  
34 pursuant to subsection c. of this section to the satisfaction of the board  
35 <sup>1</sup>[prior to relicensure] no later than three years after the effective date  
36 of this act<sup>1</sup>. The training required pursuant to this subsection shall be  
37 in addition to any continuing medical education required pursuant to  
38 section 10 of P.L.2001, c.<sup>1</sup>[37]307<sup>1</sup> (C.45:9-7.1).

39 f. The board may waive the requirement in subsection d. or e. of  
40 this section if an applicant for <sup>1</sup>[licensure or]<sup>1</sup> relicensure <sup>1</sup>[, as  
41 applicable,]<sup>1</sup> demonstrates to the satisfaction of the board that the  
42 applicant has attained the substantial equivalent of this requirement  
43 through completion of a similar course in his post-secondary education  
44 which meets criteria established by regulation of the board.

45  
46 3. The State Board of Medical Examiners, pursuant to the

1 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et  
2 seq.), shall adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of  
3 this act.

4

5 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

6

7

8

9

10 Requires physician cultural competency training as a condition of  
11 licensure.

# SENATE, No. 144

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 211th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2004 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator WAYNE R. BRYANT**

**District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)**

**Senator DIANE ALLEN**

**District 7 (Burlington and Camden)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires physician cultural competency training as a condition of licensure.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT concerning medical education and supplementing chapter 9  
2 of Title 45 of the Revised Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
5 *of New Jersey:*

6

7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. The findings of a recently reported, federally-funded study by  
9 Georgetown University, in conjunction with the Rand Corporation and  
10 the University of Pennsylvania, which were published in the New  
11 England Journal of Medicine, indicate that physicians are far less likely  
12 to refer blacks and women than white men with identical complaints  
13 of chest pain to heart specialists for cardiac catheterization; and the  
14 authors of this study suggest that the difference in referral rates stems  
15 from racial and sexual biases;

16 b. These findings are the latest in a growing body of medical  
17 literature which documents race and gender-based disparities in the  
18 provision of health care, especially in the treatment of cardiovascular  
19 disease; however, according to the Surgeon General of the United  
20 States, the Georgetown University study represents the best attempt  
21 to date to document the racial attitudes of physicians as a factor in the  
22 poorer health of African Americans;

23 c. It is estimated that the minority population in the United States  
24 will increase by 60% between now and the year 2010;

25 d. Cultural awareness and cultural competence are essential skills  
26 for providing quality health care to a diverse patient population;

27 e. Only a small percentage of medical schools nationwide currently  
28 provide some formal training in cultural competence;

29 f. The Association of American Medical Colleges is working to  
30 help medical schools improve the teaching of cultural competency; and

31 g. The public interest in providing quality health care to all  
32 segments of society dictates the need for a formal requirement that  
33 medical professionals be trained in the provision of culturally  
34 competent health care as a condition of licensure to practice medicine  
35 in New Jersey.

36

37 2. The State Board of Medical Examiners shall prescribe the  
38 following requirements for physician training, by regulation, in  
39 consultation with the Commission on Higher Education:

40 a. The curriculum in each college of medicine in this State shall  
41 include instruction in cultural competency designed to address the  
42 problem of race and gender-based disparities in medical treatment  
43 decisions and developed in consultation with the Association of  
44 American Medical Colleges or another nationally recognized  
45 organization which reviews medical school curricula.

46 b. Completion of cultural competency instruction as provided in

1 subsection a. of this section shall be required as a condition of  
2 receiving a diploma from a college of medicine in this State.

3 c. A college of medicine which includes instruction in cultural  
4 competency as provided in subsection a. of this section in its curricula  
5 shall offer for continuing education credit, cultural competency  
6 training which is provided through classroom instruction, workshops  
7 or other educational programs sponsored by the college and which  
8 meets criteria established by the board consistent with the instruction  
9 developed pursuant to subsection a. of this section.

10 d. A person who received a diploma from a college of medicine in  
11 this State prior to the effective date of regulations adopted by the  
12 board to effectuate the purposes of this act shall be required, as a  
13 condition of initial licensure by the board, to document completion of  
14 cultural competency training which is offered pursuant to subsection  
15 c. of this section to the satisfaction of the board.

16 e. A physician licensed to practice medicine in this State shall be  
17 required, as a condition of relicensure, to document completion of  
18 cultural competency training which is offered pursuant to subsection  
19 c. of this section to the satisfaction of the board no later than three  
20 years after the effective date of this act.

21 f. The board may waive the requirement in subsection d. or e. of  
22 this section if an applicant for licensure or relicensure, as applicable,  
23 demonstrates to the satisfaction of the board that the applicant has  
24 attained the substantial equivalent of this requirement through  
25 completion of a similar course in his post-secondary education which  
26 meets criteria established by regulation of the board.

27  
28 3. The State Board of Medical Examiners, pursuant to the  
29 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et  
30 seq.), shall adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of  
31 this act.

32  
33 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

34  
35

36 STATEMENT

37  
38 This bill requires that physicians in New Jersey be required to take  
39 cultural competency training as a condition of licensure by the State  
40 Board of Medical Examiners.

41 Specifically, the bill mandates that the board prescribe the following  
42 requirements for physician training in New Jersey, by regulation, in  
43 consultation with the Commission on Higher Education:

44 a. The curricula in each college of medicine in this State shall  
45 include instruction in cultural competency designed to address the  
46 problem of race and gender-based disparities in medical treatment



1 decisions and developed in consultation with the Association of  
2 American Medical Colleges or another nationally recognized  
3 organization which reviews medical school curricula.

4 b. Completion of cultural competency instruction shall be required  
5 as a condition of receiving a diploma from a college of medicine in this  
6 State.

7 c. A college of medicine in this State which includes cultural  
8 competency instruction as provided in this bill in its curricula shall  
9 offer for continuing education credit, cultural competency training  
10 which is provided through classroom instruction, workshops or other  
11 educational programs sponsored by the college and which meets  
12 criteria established by the board consistent with instruction developed  
13 pursuant to this bill.

14 d. A person who received a diploma from a college of medicine in  
15 this State prior to the effective date of regulations adopted by the  
16 board to effectuate the purposes of this bill shall be required, as a  
17 condition of initial licensure by the board, to document completion of  
18 cultural competency training which is offered pursuant to this bill to  
19 the satisfaction of the board.

20 e. A physician licensed to practice medicine in this State shall be  
21 required, as a condition of relicensure, to document completion of  
22 cultural competency training which is offered pursuant to this bill to  
23 the satisfaction of the board no later than three years after the effective  
24 date of the bill.

25 f. The board may waive the requirement to complete cultural  
26 competency training offered pursuant to this bill for initial licensure or  
27 relicensure if an applicant demonstrates to the satisfaction of the board  
28 that he has attained the substantial equivalent of this requirement  
29 through completion of a similar course in his post-secondary education  
30 which meets criteria established by regulation of the board.

# SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### **SENATE, No. 144**

with committee amendments

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: FEBRUARY 24, 2004

The Senate Commerce Committee reports favorably, and with committee amendments, Senate Bill No. 144.

As amended, this bill requires that physicians in New Jersey take cultural competency training as a condition of licensure, or relicensure, as the case may be, by the State Board of Medical Examiners.

Specifically, the bill mandates that the board prescribe the following requirements for physician training in New Jersey, by regulation, in consultation with the Commission on Higher Education:

a. The curricula in each college of medicine in this State shall include instruction in cultural competency designed to address the problem of race and gender-based disparities in medical treatment decisions and developed in consultation with the Association of American Medical Colleges or another nationally recognized organization which reviews medical school curricula.

b. Completion of cultural competency instruction shall be required as a condition of receiving a diploma from a college of medicine in this State.

c. A college of medicine in this State which includes cultural competency instruction as provided in this bill in its curricula shall offer for continuing education credit, cultural competency training which is provided through classroom instruction, workshops or other educational programs sponsored by the college and which meets criteria established by the board consistent with instruction developed pursuant to this bill.

d. A person who received a diploma from a college of medicine in this State prior to the effective date of this bill who was not required and did not receive instruction in cultural competency as part of a medical school curriculum shall be required, as a condition of relicensure by the board, to document completion of cultural competency training which is offered pursuant to this bill to the satisfaction of the board. This training requirement is in addition to existing continuing medical education requirements.

e. A physician licensed to practice medicine in this State prior to the effective date of the bill who was not required to receive and did

not receive instruction in cultural competency as part of a medical school curriculum shall be required, as a condition of relicensure, to document completion of cultural competency training which is offered through continuing education pursuant to this bill to the satisfaction of the board. This training requirement is in addition to existing continuing medical education requirements.

f. The board may waive the requirement to complete cultural competency training offered pursuant to this bill for initial licensure or relicensure if an applicant demonstrates to the satisfaction of the board that he has attained the substantial equivalent of this requirement through completion of a similar course in his post-secondary education which meets criteria established by regulation of the board.

The committee amended the bill to clarify that the bill's provisions will apply upon relicensure to medical school graduates and licensed physicians who were not required and who did not receive instruction in cultural competency as part of a medical school curriculum. The amendments also make it clear that the cultural competency training required for relicensure shall be in addition to any continuing medical education already required pursuant to law.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2004 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review which has been performed.

STATEMENT TO

SENATE SUBSTITUTE FOR

**SENATE, No. 144 and SENATE SUBSTITUTE FOR**

**ASSEMBLY No. 492**

with Assembly Floor Amendments  
(By Assemblywoman WATSON COLEMAN)

ADOPTED: DECEMBER 13, 2004

These amendments allow those physicians licensed to practice medicine in this State prior to the effective date of the bill, who were not required to receive and did not receive instruction in cultural competency as part of a medical school curriculum, to document completion of cultural competency training to the satisfaction of the State Board of Medical Examiners no later than three years after the effective date of the bill, as a condition of relicensure. The bill currently requires completion of the training prior to relicensure. Inasmuch as approximately 10,000 physicians are due for relicensure effective July 1, 2005, the amendment will allow sufficient time, both for the board to prepare for the new relicensure requirement, and for physicians to complete the new requirement for cultural competency.

# ASSEMBLY, No. 492

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 211th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2004 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN**

**District 15 (Mercer)**

**Assemblyman GORDON M. JOHNSON**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires physician cultural competency training as a condition of licensure.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT concerning medical education and supplementing chapter 9  
2 of Title 45 of the Revised Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
5 *of New Jersey:*

6

7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. The findings of a recently reported, federally-funded study by  
9 Georgetown University, in conjunction with the Rand Corporation and  
10 the University of Pennsylvania, which were published in the New  
11 England Journal of Medicine, indicate that physicians are far less likely  
12 to refer blacks and women than white men with identical complaints  
13 of chest pain to heart specialists for cardiac catheterization; and the  
14 authors of this study suggest that the difference in referral rates stems  
15 from racial and sexual biases;

16 b. These findings are the latest in a growing body of medical  
17 literature which documents race and gender-based disparities in the  
18 provision of health care, especially in the treatment of cardiovascular  
19 disease; however, according to the Surgeon General of the United  
20 States, the Georgetown University study represents the best attempt  
21 to date to document the racial attitudes of physicians as a factor in the  
22 poorer health of African Americans;

23 c. It is estimated that the minority population in the United States  
24 will increase by 60% between now and the year 2010;

25 d. Cultural awareness and cultural competence are essential skills  
26 for providing quality health care to a diverse patient population;

27 e. Only a small percentage of medical schools nationwide currently  
28 provide some formal training in cultural competence;

29 f. The Association of American Medical Colleges is working to  
30 help medical schools improve the teaching of cultural competency; and

31 g. The public interest in providing quality health care to all  
32 segments of society dictates the need for a formal requirement that  
33 medical professionals be trained in the provision of culturally  
34 competent health care as a condition of licensure to practice medicine  
35 in New Jersey.

36

37 2. The State Board of Medical Examiners shall prescribe the  
38 following requirements for physician training, by regulation, in  
39 consultation with the Commission on Higher Education:

40 a. The curriculum in each college of medicine in this State shall  
41 include instruction in cultural competency designed to address the  
42 problem of race and gender-based disparities in medical treatment  
43 decisions and developed in consultation with the Association of  
44 American Medical Colleges or another nationally recognized  
45 organization which reviews medical school curricula.

46 b. Completion of cultural competency instruction as provided in

1 subsection a. of this section shall be required as a condition of  
2 receiving a diploma from a college of medicine in this State.

3 c. A college of medicine which includes instruction in cultural  
4 competency as provided in subsection a. of this section in its curricula  
5 shall offer for continuing education credit, cultural competency  
6 training which is provided through classroom instruction, workshops  
7 or other educational programs sponsored by the college and which  
8 meets criteria established by the board consistent with the instruction  
9 developed pursuant to subsection a. of this section.

10 d. A person who received a diploma from a college of medicine in  
11 this State prior to the effective date of regulations adopted by the  
12 board to effectuate the purposes of this act shall be required, as a  
13 condition of initial licensure by the board, to document completion of  
14 cultural competency training which is offered pursuant to subsection  
15 c. of this section to the satisfaction of the board.

16 e. A physician licensed to practice medicine in this State shall be  
17 required, as a condition of relicensure, to document completion of  
18 cultural competency training which is offered pursuant to subsection  
19 c. of this section to the satisfaction of the board no later than three  
20 years after the effective date of this act.

21 f. The board may waive the requirement in subsection d. or e. of  
22 this section if an applicant for licensure or relicensure, as applicable,  
23 demonstrates to the satisfaction of the board that the applicant has  
24 attained the substantial equivalent of this requirement through  
25 completion of a similar course in his post-secondary education which  
26 meets criteria established by regulation of the board.

27  
28 3. The State Board of Medical Examiners, pursuant to the  
29 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et  
30 seq.), shall adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of  
31 this act.

32  
33 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

34  
35

36 STATEMENT

37  
38 This bill requires that physicians in New Jersey be required to take  
39 cultural competency training as a condition of licensure by the State  
40 Board of Medical Examiners.

41 Specifically, the bill mandates that the board prescribe the following  
42 requirements for physician training in New Jersey, by regulation, in  
43 consultation with the Commission on Higher Education:

44 a. The curricula in each college of medicine in this State shall  
45 include instruction in cultural competency designed to address the  
46 problem of race and gender-based disparities in medical treatment

1 decisions and developed in consultation with the Association of  
2 American Medical Colleges or another nationally recognized  
3 organization which reviews medical school curricula.

4 b. Completion of cultural competency instruction shall be required  
5 as a condition of receiving a diploma from a college of medicine in this  
6 State.

7 c. A college of medicine in this State which includes cultural  
8 competency instruction as provided in this bill in its curricula shall  
9 offer for continuing education credit, cultural competency training  
10 which is provided through classroom instruction, workshops or other  
11 educational programs sponsored by the college and which meets  
12 criteria established by the board consistent with instruction developed  
13 pursuant to this bill.

14 d. A person who received a diploma from a college of medicine in  
15 this State prior to the effective date of regulations adopted by the  
16 board to effectuate the purposes of this bill shall be required, as a  
17 condition of initial licensure by the board, to document completion of  
18 cultural competency training which is offered pursuant to this bill to  
19 the satisfaction of the board.

20 e. A physician licensed to practice medicine in this State shall be  
21 required, as a condition of relicensure, to document completion of  
22 cultural competency training which is offered pursuant to this bill to  
23 the satisfaction of the board no later than three years after the effective  
24 date of the bill.

25 f. The board may waive the requirement to complete cultural  
26 competency training offered pursuant to this bill for initial licensure or  
27 relicensure if an applicant demonstrates to the satisfaction of the board  
28 that he has attained the substantial equivalent of this requirement  
29 through completion of a similar course in his post-secondary education  
30 which meets criteria established by regulation of the board.



ASSEMBLY COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**ASSEMBLY, No. 492**

with committee amendments

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: FEBRUARY 9, 2004

The Assembly Commerce and Economic Development Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No.492.

Assembly Bill No.492, as amended by the committee, requires that physicians in New Jersey be required to take cultural competency training as a condition of licensure by the State Board of Medical Examiners.

Specifically, the bill mandates that the board prescribe the following requirements for physician training in New Jersey, by regulation, in consultation with the Commission on Higher Education:

a. The curricula in each college of medicine in this State shall include instruction in cultural competency designed to address the problem of race and gender-based disparities in medical treatment decisions and developed in consultation with the Association of American Medical Colleges or another nationally recognized organization which reviews medical school curricula.

b. Completion of cultural competency instruction shall be required as a condition of receiving a diploma from a college of medicine in this State.

c. A college of medicine in this State which includes cultural competency instruction as provided in this bill in its curricula shall offer for continuing education credit, cultural competency training which is provided through classroom instruction, workshops or other educational programs sponsored by the college and which meets criteria established by the board consistent with instruction developed pursuant to this bill.

d. A person who received a diploma from a college of medicine in this State prior to the effective date of regulations adopted by the board to effectuate the purposes of this bill shall be required, as a condition of initial licensure by the board, to document completion of cultural competency training which is offered pursuant to this bill to the satisfaction of the board.

e. A physician licensed to practice medicine in this State shall be

required, as a condition of relicensure, to document completion of cultural competency training which is offered pursuant to this bill to the satisfaction of the board no later than three years after the effective date of the bill.

f. The board may waive the requirement to complete cultural competency training offered pursuant to this bill for initial licensure or relicensure if an applicant demonstrates to the satisfaction of the board that he has attained the substantial equivalent of this requirement through completion of a similar course in his post-secondary education which meets criteria established by regulation of the board.

#### Committee Amendments

When this bill was originally introduced in 1999, it was responding to the then recent release of a groundbreaking report on racial, ethnic, and gender-related disparities in the treatment of certain cardiac conditions. The committee amended the bill to make those changes to the bill's findings necessary to reflect additional medical research and efforts which have been undertaken in this area since the bill's original introduction.

This bill was prefiled for introduction in the 2004 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

PO BOX 004  
TRENTON, NJ 08625

Contact: Kelley Heck  
609-777-2600

RELEASE: March 23, 2005

## **Codey Signs Bill to Improve Medical Care for Minorities**

### *New Law Requires Cultural Competency Training for Doctors*

(STRATFORD) – Acting Governor Richard J. Codey today signed legislation that will improve medical care for minorities by requiring cultural competency training for New Jersey physicians.

“We have an obligation to recognize the unique needs of our diverse community, and one area where we need to be especially sensitive to the needs of minorities is health care,” Codey said during a ceremony at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey's School of Osteopathic Medicine.

Codey said it is important for physicians to know that asthma, hypertension, AIDS, Sickle Cell Anemia and several types of cancer affect minorities at greater rates. Health care professionals also must be aware of unique cultural beliefs that may affect the health care decisions their patients make, he said.

“This new law will help provide equality in medical care by requiring that New Jersey physicians take special training to diagnose and treat conditions that are prevalent among minorities,” Codey said.

The bill, S144, requires New Jersey physicians to take cultural competency training in order to obtain a medical license from the State Board of Medical Examiners. Physicians who already have their medical licenses will need to complete the training as a condition of renewing their licenses.

“The practice of denying critical care to patients is both immoral and unfair, and it is time to end the discrimination,” said Senator Wayne R. Bryant, D-Camden and Gloucester, the bill's sponsor. “This new law shows that the State is concerned with ending health care disparities and is working to solve the issues plaguing minority patients.”

“It is the responsibility of New Jersey's health sciences university to prepare culturally competent health care providers, who now, as a result of this legislation, will be provided with educational programs to help them keep abreast of the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes they need to care for New Jersey's diverse population,” said Dr. Maria Soto-Greene, chief of staff and vice president of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

UMDNJ is developing a Center of Cultural Competency that will establish training programs to

address the needs of an array of professionals at the medical school and throughout New Jersey.