

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1433**

Introduced by

Representatives Kasper, Becker, B. Koppelman, Rohr, Strinden, Vigesaa

Senators Clemens, Davison, Dever, J. Lee, Oehlke

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 23-16, a new section to chapter  
2 23-34, a new section to chapter 26.1-47, and a new section to chapter 31-04 of the North  
3 Dakota Century Code, relating to maintenance of certification for physicians; and to declare an  
4 emergency.

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

6 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 23-16 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
7 and enacted as follows:

8 **Maintenance of certification.**

9 **1. As used in this section:**

- 10 a. "Continuing medical education" means continued postgraduate medical  
11 education required by the North Dakota board of medicine intended to educate  
12 medical professionals about new developments in the medical field.
- 13 b. "Maintenance of certification" means a process requiring periodic recertification  
14 examinations or other activities to maintain specialty medical board certification.  
15 Recertification may be provided by a medical professional organization, such as  
16 one or more of the medical specialty boards of the American board of medical  
17 specialties, the American osteopathic association, the national board of  
18 physicians and surgeons, or any other alternative, regulated board a  
19 credentialing entity recognizes.
- 20 c. "Physician" means a physician licensed under chapter 43-17.
- 21 d. "Specialty medical board certification" means certification by a board specializing  
22 in one particular area of medicine. A physician is considered a board certified  
23 medical specialist in this state if the physician receives initial certification by a

1                   medical board, regardless of the physician's maintenance of certification  
2                   participation or status.

3       2. Except as provided in subsection 5, a physician may not be denied staff privileges or  
4       employment by a facility licensed under this chapter based solely on the physician's  
5       decision to not participate in maintenance of certification.

6       3. This section does not prevent a facility's credentialing committee from requiring a  
7       physician meet continuing medical education requirements as set by the physician's  
8       licensing board.

9       4. This section does not prohibit a facility licensed under this chapter from requiring a  
10      physician to undergo remedial or corrective courses or training as may be required by  
11      a quality improvement committee.

12      5. A facility licensed under this chapter may differentiate between physicians based on a  
13      physician's maintenance of certification if:

14      a. The facility's designation, certification, or accreditation is contingent on the facility  
15      requiring a specific maintenance of certification by physicians seeking staff  
16      privileges or credentialing at the facility and the differentiation is limited to those  
17      physicians whose maintenance of certification is required for the facility's  
18      designation, certification, or accreditation; or

19      b. The voting physician members of the facility's organized medical staff vote to  
20      authorize the differentiation.

21           (1) The authorized differentiation may be made only by the voting physician  
22           members of the facility's organized medical staff and not by the facility's  
23           governing body, administration, or any other person.

24           (2) The facility may establish terms applicable to the facility's differentiation,  
25           including appropriate grandfathering provisions, limiting the differentiation to  
26           certain medical specialties, and allowing the differentiation to be rescinded  
27           at any time by a vote of the voting physician members of the facility's  
28           organized medical staff.

29      6. A facility licensed under this chapter may not consider maintenance of certification  
30      participation or status as a standard of care consideration in the course of a quality  
31      improvement assessment.

1       **SECTION 2.** A new section to chapter 23-34 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
2 and enacted as follows:

3       **Peer review - Limitations.**

4       A peer review organization may not consider maintenance of certification participation or  
5 status as a standard of care consideration in the course of a professional peer review.

6       **SECTION 3.** A new section to chapter 26.1-47 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
7 and enacted as follows:

8       **Maintenance of certification.**

- 9       1. As used in this section, the terms "continuing medical education", "maintenance of  
10 certification", "physician", and "specialty medical board certification" have the same  
11 meaning as provided under section 1 of this Act.
- 12       2. A health care insurer may not deny reimbursement to or prevent a physician from  
13 being a preferred provider based solely on a physician's decision to not participate in  
14 maintenance of certification, including basing a physician's network participation on  
15 any form of maintenance of certification participation or status.
- 16       3. A health care insurer may not discriminate with respect to reimbursement levels based  
17 solely on a physician's decision to not participate in any form of maintenance of  
18 certification.

19       **SECTION 4.** A new section to chapter 31-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
20 and enacted as follows:

21       **Medical-related civil action - Maintenance of certification.**

22       In a medical-related civil action, maintenance of certification participation or status of a  
23 physician is not admissible as evidence of liability or of standard of care.

24       **SECTION 5. EMERGENCY.** This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.