Senate Bill No. 380

CHAPTER 236

An act to amend Section 2190 of, and to add Sections 2196.6 and 2196.7 to, the Business and Professions Code, relating to medicine.

[Approved by Governor September 6, 2011. Filed with Secretary of State September 6, 2011.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 380, Wright. Continuing medical education.

Existing law, the Medical Practice Act, provides for the licensure and regulation of physicians and surgeons by the Medical Board of California. Under that act, the board is required to adopt and administer standards for the continuing education of physicians and surgeons. Existing law requires physicians and surgeons to complete a mandatory continuing education course in the subjects of pain management and the treatment of terminally ill and dying patients, except that it does not apply to physicians and surgeons practicing in pathology or radiology specialty areas. Existing law also requires the board to periodically disseminate information and educational material regarding detection of spousal or partner abuse to physicians and surgeons and acute care hospitals.

This bill would authorize the board to also set content standards for an educational activity concerning chronic disease, as specified. The bill would require the board to periodically disseminate information and educational material regarding nutritional and lifestyle behavior for prevention and treatment of chronic disease to physicians and surgeons and acute care hospitals. The bill would require the board to convene a working group regarding nutrition and lifestyle behavior, as specified.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) In 2008, U.S. health care spending was about $7,681 per resident and accounted for 16.2 percent of the nation’s gross domestic product; this is among the highest of all industrialized countries. Expenditures in the United States on health care surpassed $2.3 trillion in 2008, more than three times the $714 billion spent in 1990, and over eight times the $253 billion spent in 1980.

(b) It is estimated that health care costs for chronic disease treatment account for over 75 percent of national health expenditures.
(c) Seven out of 10 deaths among Americans each year are from chronic
diseases. Heart disease, cancer, and stroke account for more than 50 percent
of all deaths each year.
(d) The last major report from the World Health Organization in March
2003 concluded diet was a major factor in the cause of chronic diseases.
(e) Dramatic increases in chronic diseases have been seen in Asian
countries since the end of WWII with the increase in the gross national
product and change to the western diet.
(f) Only 19 percent of students believed that they had been extensively
trained in nutrition counseling. Fewer than 50 percent of primary care
physicians include nutrition or dietary counseling in their patient visits.
(g) Practicing physicians continually rate their nutrition knowledge and
skills as inadequate. More than one-half of graduating medical students
report that the time dedicated to nutrition instruction is inadequate.

SEC. 2. Section 2190 of the Business and Professions Code is amended
to read:

2190. In order to ensure the continuing competence of licensed physicians
and surgeons, the board shall adopt and administer standards for the
continuing education of those licensees. The board may also set content
standards for any educational activity concerning a chronic disease that
includes appropriate information on prevention of the chronic disease, and
on treatment of patients with the chronic disease, by the application of
changes in nutrition and lifestyle behavior. The board shall require each
licensed physician and surgeon to demonstrate satisfaction of the continuing
education requirements at intervals of not less than four nor more than six
years.

SEC. 3. Section 2196.6 is added to the Business and Professions Code,
to read:

2196.6. The board shall periodically disseminate information and
educational material regarding the prevention and treatment of chronic
disease by the application of changes in nutrition and lifestyle behavior to
each licensed physician and surgeon and to each general acute care hospital
in the state.

SEC. 4. Section 2196.7 is added to the Business and Professions Code,
to read:

2196.7. The board shall convene a working group of interested parties
to discuss nutrition and lifestyle behavior for the prevention and treatment
of chronic disease at one of its quarterly meetings within three years after
the operative date of this section.