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Synopsis of Senate Committee Amendments

(This synopsis does not address amendments that may have been adopted on the Senate Floor.)

Sub. H.B. 673 of the 133rd General Assembly

Senate General Government and Agency Review

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Educator preparation program alternative experiences

Requires, during the 2021-2022 academic year, rather than the 2020-2021 academic year as in the House-passed version, each educator preparation program to develop and implement a plan to provide its students with alternative experiences to make up hours or weeks of clinical experiences missed due to school closure or limited hours because of COVID-19.

Requires the departments of Higher Education and Education to consider a student who successfully completes make-up hours or weeks in the 2021-2022 academic year, rather than the 2020-2021 academic year as in the House-passed version, using alternative experiences eligible for licensure and endorsement recommendations in the same manner as a student who completes clinical experiences.

Continuing education requirement suspension

Extends, from December 1, 2020, as in the House-passed version, to July 1, 2021, the proposed suspension of any requirement that a person must complete continuing education to maintain or renew an occupational license.

Administration of immunizations

Adds a provision to the House-passed version authorizing a pharmacist or pharmacy intern to administer to adults any immunization that is authorized or approved for use in adults but not yet included in the recommended adult schedule (under current law, an adult immunization generally must be on the recommended adult schedule in order for a pharmacist or pharmacy intern to be authorized to administer it).

Adds a provision authorizing podiatrists to administer COVID-19 vaccinations to individuals seven and older.

Energy efficiency programs for low-income customers

Requires (as an exception to the December 31, 2020, termination date of portfolio plans) all energy efficiency (EE) programs for low-income customers with an annual income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level that are included in an electric distribution utility (EDU) portfolio plan to terminate on September 27, 2021.

Provides for an extension of EDU cost recovery as needed for cost reconciliation of up to 270 days after the later of the date of deemed EE compliance or full expenditure of collected revenues for portfolio plans.

State Cosmetology and Barber Board membership

Eliminates a requirement that one barber member of the State Cosmetology and Barber Board be an employer barber and the other be employed as a barber, but retains the requirement that both be licensed for at least five years preceding appointment.

Specifies that the bill does not affect a Board member's term if the member is serving on the bill's effective date.

Inactive cosmetology licenses

Allows the Board to reactivate an inactive license to practice a branch of cosmetology, an advanced license, or an instructor license on receiving satisfactory proof that the licensee has completed required continuing education, rather than requiring the Board to refrain from reactivating the license until the later of the following:

- The date the individual submits proof that the individual completed continuing education;
- The last day of January of the next odd numbered year following the license being classified as inactive.

Removes current law authority allowing the Board to grant a temporary work permit to an individual with an inactive license to practice a branch of cosmetology.

Barber and barber teacher examinations

Eliminates all of the following requirements regarding barber and barber teacher examinations:

- That an individual attain at least a 75% score on each part of the barber examination to be eligible for a barber license.
- That an individual who does not pass a part of the barber examination wait 90 days after the date the scores are released before reapplying to retake that part of the examination.
- That an individual who does not pass a part of the barber examination and fails to reapply within 90 days or fails the part a second time complete an additional 200 hours of Board approved study to reapply to take the examination.

- That an individual who does not pass the barber teacher license examination wait one year and remain employed as an assistant barber teacher before applying to retake the examination.

Emergency declaration

Declares an emergency for the bill to take immediate effect.