1   SENATE BILL NO. 35

2   AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

3   (Proposed by the Senate Committee on Education and Health

4   on January 25, 2024)

5   (Patron Prior to Substitute--Senator Locke)

6   A BILL to direct the Board of Medicine to require certain licensees to complete training on unconscious

7   bias and cultural competency as part of their continuing education and continuing competency

8   requirements for licensure.

9   **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

10   **1.** § 1. That the Board of Medicine (the Board) shall, pursuant to its authority under § 54.1-2928.3 of the

11   Code of Virginia, require that persons licensed by the Board complete continuing learning activities on

12   the topics of unconscious bias and cultural competency. The Board shall promulgate regulations requiring

13   that the continued competency requirements for renewal of an active license shall include completion of

14   unconscious bias and cultural competency training. The Board shall designate organizations that identify

15   and facilitate an evidence-based curriculum to comply with this legislation. Such unconscious bias and

16   cultural competency training shall be required for every license renewal period for licensees of the Board.

17   § 2. That the first unconscious bias and cultural competency training required pursuant to § 1 of

18   this act shall be comprehensive and cover how unconscious racial bias affects care during pregnancy and

19   the postpartum period. Subsequent unconscious bias and cultural competency training shall provide

20   relevant practice-related content as determined by the Board. The Board shall update the training as it

21   identifies additional needs.

22   § 3. That the Board shall report the number of licensees who have successfully completed such

23   training to the Department of Health and the Virginia Neonatal Perinatal Collaborative to be included in

24   their annual reports. The Virginia Neonatal Perinatal Collaborative shall, for licensees who provide

25   fertility care, prenatal care, birth care, and postpartum care, evaluate the impact of such training, develop

26   a method for assessment of its effectiveness, and make recommendations for training improvements.

27   #