

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HOSPITALS AND  
HUMAN SERVICES

12/17/2015-SPECIAL ORDERED

**BILL NO. 31-0294**

**Thirty-first Legislature of the Virgin Islands**

**December 17, 2015**

An Act amending title 27 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 1, subchapter IX, section 166e by requiring health care providers, who are employed by the Government of the Virgin Islands and are engaged in private practice and receive financial assistance toward the payment of medical malpractice insurance premiums, to accept Medicare and Medicaid

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**PROPOSED BY:** Senator Nereida “Nellie” Rivera-O’Reilly

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1 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:*

2           **SECTION 1.** Title 27 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 1, subchapter IX, section 166e  
3 subsections (f), (g), and (h) are re-designated as subsections (g), (h), and (i) respectively, and a  
4 new subsection (f) is inserted to read as follows:

5           “(f) All health care providers who, in addition to their employment with the  
6 Government of the Virgin Islands, engage in a private practice and receive financial assistance  
7 toward the payment of their medical malpractice insurance premiums under this section, shall  
8 accept Medicare and Medicaid for payment of health care services from patients in their private  
9 practice. The Commissioner of Health, after notice to the health care provider and opportunity for

1 hearing, shall fine any health care provider who is determined to be in violation of this subsection  
2 \$10,000 for the first violation and for a second violation shall terminate all financial assistance  
3 toward the payment of the health care provider's medical malpractice insurance premiums.”

4 **BILL SUMMARY**

5 This bill amends title 27 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 1, subchapter IX, section 166e  
6 relating to the provisions of group medical malpractice insurance for health care providers. The  
7 measure requires health care providers, who are employed by the Government of the Virgin Islands  
8 and engaged in private practice and receive financial assistance toward the payment of medical  
9 malpractice insurance premiums, to accept Medicare and Medicaid. The bill also establishes  
10 penalties for health care providers' who fail to accept Medicare and Medicaid.

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13 **BR15-0191/ May 13, 2015/AA/Revised YLT**

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