

**Questions and Answers
For Proposed Regulations under Senate Bill 379
and Small Business Impact**

[Senate Bill 379](#) of the 2021 81st Nevada state legislative session requires the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to establish and maintain a database concerning healthcare providers and to develop a data request and provide a link to certain licensing boards. These licensing boards are required to make this link available to licensees upon application for renewal. Sections 9, 12-20, 22-30, 32, 33 35 and 36 of this bill provide that ***an applicant from whom data is requested is not required to complete the request.***

The proposed regulation will add questions to assist the state with Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) designations, under the federal Health Resources Services Administration. These designations leverage resources for recruitment and retention of health care professionals to Nevada.

Below are questions and answers to help provide clarification of this regulation.

Q: The deadline for the Small Business Impact Questionnaire did not seem reasonable and appears designed to minimize response.

A: The Small Business Impact Questionnaire was published and distributed to stakeholders, including licensing boards and associations, on May 4, 2022 with a deadline of May 9, 2022. We regret that some providers did not receive the SBIQ until a few days later, as secondary recipients. Additional input will be considered at the May 26, 2022 Public Workshop.

Q: The data required by the additional questions will create an administrative burden requiring additional staff time and data system updates to track the information accurately.

A: Senate Bill 379 requires the DHHS to establish and maintain a database, and also requires certain health care professional licensing boards to post a link to this database. However, licensees applying for renewal are **not** required to complete the request. In addition, the federal authority for HPSA designation allows estimated data in response to these questions.

Q: Why does the state or government need to gather all this information?

A: This information is used by the federal Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) to provide various resources to states, including loan repayment and scholarships to health professionals willing to serve in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA). The questions in this proposed regulation support the designation process.

Q: If the survey is optional, then you have to wonder how representative the results will be.

A: The state is required to collect data reflecting this information from at least **66% of providers.**

Q: Data coming from various providers can be interpreted differently and could include inaccurate data. Requesting data could also negatively impact re-credentialing. Providers may not re-credential due to the cost and time burden. This in turn would negatively impact the Nevada community.

A: The federal Health Resources Services Administration has determined to allow for estimates in response to these questions, but requires a significant number of responses (**66% of providers**) to support designation of Health Professional Shortage Areas. The state must also provide demographic data to support designations. Consequently, the average of the combined responses together with the demographic data will generally provide an accurate picture.

Q: This will force me to make public some of my proprietary business practices.

A: Data is only reported in aggregate. No data identifying individual businesses or persons will be published in any form. All data provided will be secured.

Q: I would like to testify on this bill.

A: Senate Bill 379 was passed in the 2021 81st Legislative Session. This proposed regulation will add questions to those required under Senate Bill 379. However, no businesses or providers are required to respond to either the questions specified in Senate Bill 379 or the additional questions proposed in this regulation.