



GUYANA

BILL No. 21 of 1978

MEDEX BILL 1978

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

Section

1. Short title.
2. Interpretation.
3. Registration of medex.
4. Persons to whom section 3 applies.
5. Services medex may perform
6. Publication of list of medex registered and correction of register.
7. Removal of names of medex from the register.
8. Regulations.

A BILL

Intituled

AN ACT to provide for the registration of persons as medex for the purpose of providing primary health care as auxiliaries to medical practitioners employed in the service of the Government.

- Short title. 1. This Act may be cited as the Medex Act 1978.
- Interpretation. 2. In this Act —
 “approved programme” means a programme for the training of persons for registration as medex approved by the Minister and organised for the purposes of this Act by the University of Guyana acting in conjunction with the Ministry;
 “the Board” means the Medical Board established by section 16 of the Colonial Medical Service Ordinance;
 “medex” means a person who is —
 (a) certified by the University of Guyana as having successfully undergone a course of training in the approved programme; and
 (b) is registered under this Act for the purpose of performing specific medical services as an officer in the public service;
 “the register” means the register of medex kept by the secretary pursuant to section 3;
 “the secretary” means the Secretary of the Board.
- Cap. 134 of the 1953 ed. Registration of medex. 3. The Board shall, upon the application of any person to whom this section applies, direct the secretary to enter the name of that person in a register of medex kept by the secretary for the purpose.
- Persons to whom section 3 applies. 4. Section 3 applies to any person who is eligible for registration as a medex under this Act by satisfying the Board —
 (a) that he is of good character;
 (b) that he is certified by the University of Guyana as having successfully undergone a course of training in the approved programme; or
 (c) that he holds a certificate granted by an institution in a place outside Guyana and recognised for the time

being by the Board as furnishing a sufficient guarantee of the possession by him of the requisite knowledge and skill to perform efficiently the functions which may be performed by a medex under this Act; and

- (d) that he is employed, or has been selected for employment, in the public service.

5.(1) A medex may perform, under the supervision of a duly registered medical practitioner designated by the Minister for the purpose, such medical services for which the medex has been trained under the approved programme and, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provisions of this subsection may, in particular

Services
medex may
perform

- (a) advise members of the public on the promotion of health generally and the prevention of disease;
- (b) administer pre-natal and post-natal care and advise members of the public on routine child care;
- (c) diagnose and manage certain common ailments and identify such ailments as need referral to the supervising medical practitioner, or in an emergency directly to a hospital;
- (d) perform normal deliveries of babies and identify abnormalities which need to be referred to the supervising medical practitioner or to a hospital.

(2) Nothing in subsection (1) shall be so construed as requiring the personal presence of the supervising medical practitioner at the place where medical services are performed by a medex, provided that a telephone service or a form of radio communication is available, if and when required, for direct contact with the supervising medical practitioner.

6.(1) In the month of February in each year the secretary shall publish in the Gazette a list of the names of those persons then registered as medex.

Publication
of list of
medex
registered
and cor-
rection of
the register.

(2) The secretary, shall from time to time, insert in the register any alteration in the name or address of any medex registered coming to his knowledge and delete the name of every deceased medex.

Removal of
names of
medex
from the
register.

7.(1) The Board may remove from the register for such period as the Board may determine in the circumstances of the case, or permanently, the name of any registered medex who is convicted of an offence on indictment, or who, after due inquiry by the Board, is adjudged by the Board to have been negligent in the performance of his/her functions as a medex, or to have been guilty of any misconduct in connection therewith.

(2) The removal of the name of a medex from the register under this section shall be published in the Gazette.

Regulations

8. The Minister, after consultation with the authorities of the University of Guyana, may make regulations for the better carrying out of the provisions of this Act.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to provide legislation for the certification of persons by the University of Guyana on the successful completion of a programme of training organised by the University in conjunction with the Minister responsible for Health. The persons so trained are eligible for registration as medex by the Medical Board of Guyana and they are being trained to provide primary health care as auxiliaries to medical practitioners employed in the public service and will carry out their functions under the supervision of medical practitioners designated for the purpose by the Minister assigned responsibility for health. Provision is made in clause 3 of the Bill for persons with similar training in institutions outside Guyana to be eligible for registration as medex in Guyana.

The introduction of medex as an extension of the health services now available in Guyana is intended to provide much needed assistance to medical practitioners, particularly in the rural areas, in providing health care for the people of Guyana.

Hamilton Green,
Minister of Health and Labour, Housing.

(Bill o. 21/1978)

(H — 14/214)