

## **Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act**

State lawmakers considering Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act. USA Today (10/9, Hall) reports, "Laws aimed at breaking legal hurdles that prevented hundreds of doctors and nurses from volunteering to help Hurricane Katrina victims in 2005 are gaining momentum in states from Oregon to Pennsylvania." The Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act "would allow doctors, nurses, pharmacists, coroners, emergency medical technicians and veterinarians who aren't licensed in states struck by disaster to get quick authorization to offer medical help." Healthcare workers "would have to register with the government," and if approved, "they would be under the supervision of officials in the state where they volunteer." Interest in the legislation, which has been "approved in Colorado, Kentucky and Tennessee," stems "from the confusion and government red tape that kept volunteer health workers out of New Orleans when flooding wiped out hospitals and left residents desperate for medical care." USA Today notes, "Proponents say they expect 20 more states to consider legislation in 2008."

States where the Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act has passed or has been proposed are California, Colorado, Kentucky Maine, Mississippi, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and the US Virgin Islands.

Click here to access the Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act:  
<http://www.uevhpa.org/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabindex=1&tabid=55>.

October 9, 2007