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LICENSE DIETICIANS AND NUTRITIONISTS

House Bill 4296

Sponsor: Rep. Beverly Hammerstrom
Committee: Health Policy

Complete to 5-22-98

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4296 AS INTRODUCED 2-12-97

The bill would amend Article 15 of the Public Health Code to create a licensure framework for dietitians and nutritionists, set license fees, and create the Michigan Board of Dietetics and Nutrition. A person would be prohibited from practicing dietetics and nutrition or using certain titles unless licensed or authorized under the bill. A person whose activities were within the scope of the practice of dietetics and nutrition would be exempt from the bill's requirements as long as he or she did not hold himself or herself out as a licensed dietitian and nutritionist. The "practice of dietetics and nutrition" would be defined as "the integration and application of scientific principles of food, nutrition, biochemistry, physiology, management, and behavioral and social sciences to achieve and maintain health of people primarily through the provision of nutrition care services." The bill would also specify activities that would not constitute the practice of dietetics and nutrition.

The Michigan Board of Dietetics and Nutrition would be created in the Department of Consumer and Industry Services (CIS). Membership would consist of seven members -- two representing the general public and five with a background in dietetics and nutrition as specified in the bill. Fees would be \$20 for a license application, \$25 a year for the license, \$25 for a limited license, and \$20 for a temporary license.

Licensure requirements would include having a baccalaureate degree from a board-approved college or university with a major course of study in human nutrition, nutrition education, foods and nutrition, dietetics, or food systems management; at least 900 hours of experience as prescribed by rule; and passing a board-approved exam. An individual registered as a dietitian with the Commission on Dietetic Registration would be considered to have satisfied the bill's educational requirements. Beginning with the second renewal period after the bill's enactment, a licensee would have to complete 12 clock-hours in related continuing education units or provide evidence of continuing competence as prescribed by rule in order to renew a license. An individual applying for licensure within one year of the bill's effective date who could demonstrate that he or she had been engaged in the practice of dietetics and nutrition for the preceding two years and met the educational requirements would be licensed without having to take the examination. The bill would also provide for a limited license and a temporary license for individuals meeting certain criteria.

MCL 333.16131

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