

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

(PREFILED)

January 7, 2015

Introduced by Sen. LAVALLE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to the licensure of dietitians and nutritionists

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. Legislative findings and declaration of purpose. The legis-
2 lature finds that the application of scientific knowledge relating to
3 nutrition is important in effective care, treatment and prevention of
4 disease or trauma and in the attainment and maintenance of health, and
5 acknowledges that the rendering and communication of sound dietetic and
6 nutrition services in hospitals, nursing homes, extended care and ambu-
7 latory care settings, school districts, health departments, private
8 practice and consultation, and in other settings requires trained and
9 competent professionals. The legislature further finds that it is neces-
10 sary in the provision of medical nutrition therapy for such profes-
11 sionals to be licensed under article 157 of the education law to ensure
12 quality care through a standardized nutrition care process, consisting
13 of a nutrition assessment, nutrition diagnosis, nutrition intervention
14 and the monitoring and evaluation of outcomes directly related to the
15 nutrition care process. Therefore, it is hereby declared to be the
16 purpose of this act to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the
17 public by providing for the licensure and regulation of the activities
18 of persons engaged in the practice of dietetics and nutrition.

19 S 2. Section 8000 of the education law, as added by chapter 635 of the
20 laws of 1991, is amended to read as follows:

21 S 8000. Introduction. This article applies to the use of the titles
22 ["certified dietitian" and "certified nutritionist"] "LICENSED
23 DIETITIAN/NUTRITIONIST" OR "LDN" AND THE PRACTICE OF DIETETICS AND

EXPLANATION--Matter in *ITALICS* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[] is old law to be omitted.

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1 NUTRITION. The general provision for all professions contained in arti-
2 cle one hundred thirty of this title shall apply to this article.

3 S 3. Section 8001 of the education law, as added by chapter 635 of the
4 laws of 1991, is amended to read as follows:

5 S 8001. [Definitions] DIETETIC AND NUTRITION PRACTICE. [1. Dietetics
6 and nutrition are herein each defined as the integration and applica-
7 tion of principles derived from the sciences of nutrition, biochemistry,
8 physiology, food management and behavioral and social sciences to
9 achieve and maintain people's health.

10 2. Where the title "certified dietitian" or "certified nutritionist"
11 is used in this article it shall mean "certified dietitian", "certified
12 dietician", or "certified nutritionist".

13 3. A certified dietitian or certified nutritionist is one who engages
14 in the integration and application of principles derived from the
15 sciences of nutrition, biochemistry, physiology, food management and
16 behavioral and social sciences to achieve and maintain people's health,
17 and who is certified as such by the department pursuant to section eight
18 thousand four of this article. The primary function of a certified
19 dietitian or certified nutritionist is the provision of nutrition care
20 services that shall include:

21 (a) Assessing nutrition needs and food patterns;

22 (b) Planning for and directing the provision of food appropriate for
23 physical and nutrition needs; and

24 (c) Providing nutrition counseling.] DIETETIC AND NUTRITION PRACTICE
25 IS THE APPLICATION OF MEDICAL NUTRITION THERAPY AND A STANDARDIZED
26 NUTRITION CARE PROCESS, INCLUDING NUTRITION ASSESSMENT, NUTRITION DIAG-
27 NOSIS, NUTRITION INTERVENTION, AND NUTRITION EVALUATION AND MONITORING
28 FOR THE PREVENTION OR TREATMENT OF NUTRITION RELATED ILLNESSES, NOURISH-
29 MENT, AND EDUCATION OF INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS THROUGHOUT THE LIFECYCLE.

30 S 4. The education law is amended by adding a new section 8001-a to
31 read as follows:

32 S 8001-A. DEFINITIONS. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS ARTICLE: 1. "MEDICAL
33 NUTRITION THERAPY" IS AN EVIDENCE BASED APPLICATION OF THE NUTRITION
34 CARE PROCESS FOCUSED ON PREVENTION, DELAY OR MANAGEMENT OF DISEASES AND
35 CONDITIONS, AND INVOLVES AN IN-DEPTH ASSESSMENT, PERIODIC REASSESSMENT
36 AND INTERVENTION.

37 2. "NUTRITION DIAGNOSIS" IN THE CONTEXT OF DIETETICS AND NUTRITION
38 PRACTICE MEANS THE IDENTIFICATION AND LABELING OF EXISTING NUTRITION
39 PROBLEMS EXPRESSED IN TERMS OF ETIOLOGY, SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS. NUTRITION
40 DIAGNOSIS IS DISTINCT FROM A MEDICAL DIAGNOSIS.

41 3. "NUTRITION ASSESSMENT" MEANS THE SYSTEMATIC PROCESS OF OBTAINING,
42 VERIFYING, AND INTERPRETING BIOCHEMICAL, ANTHROPOMETRIC, PHYSICAL AND
43 DIETARY DATA IN ORDER TO MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT THE NATURE AND CAUSE OF
44 NUTRITION RELATED PROBLEMS. NUTRITION ASSESSMENT IS AN ONGOING, DYNAMIC
45 PROCESS THAT INVOLVES INITIAL DATA COLLECTION, REASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS
46 OF CLIENT OR COMMUNITY NEEDS AND PROVIDES THE FOUNDATION FOR NUTRITION
47 DIAGNOSIS AND NUTRITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDING ENTERAL AND PAREN-
48 TERAL NUTRITION. THE MERE COLLECTION OF THESE DATA FOR USE IN A NUTRI-
49 TION ASSESSMENT IS NOT A NUTRITION ASSESSMENT AND DOES NOT REQUIRE A
50 LICENSE IN DIETETICS AND NUTRITION AS SET FORTH IN THIS ARTICLE.

51 4. "NUTRITION INTERVENTION" IS A PURPOSEFULLY PLANNED ACTION, DESIGNED
52 TO POSITIVELY CHANGE NUTRITION RELATED BEHAVIOR, RISK FACTOR, ENVIRON-
53 MENTAL CONDITION OR ASPECTS OF HEALTH STATUS FOR INDIVIDUAL, GROUPS, OR
54 THE COMMUNITY.

55 S 5. Section 8002 of the education law, as added by chapter 635 of the
56 laws of 1991, is amended to read as follows:

1 S 8002. [Use] AUTHORIZATION of [titles] TITLE. Only a person [certi-
2 fied] LICENSED under this article shall be authorized to use the title
3 ["certified dietitian", "certified dietician", or "certified nutrition-
4 ist"] "LICENSED DIETITIAN/NUTRITIONIST" OR "LDN".

5 S 6. Section 8003 of the education law, as amended by chapter 282 of
6 the laws of 1992, is amended to read as follows:

7 S 8003. State board for dietetics and nutrition. A state board for
8 dietetics and nutrition shall be appointed by the board of regents, on
9 recommendation of the commissioner, for the purpose of assisting the
10 board of regents and the department on matters of [certification] LICEN-
11 SURE, PRACTICE and professional conduct in accordance with section
12 sixty-five hundred eight of this chapter.

13 The board shall consist of not less than [thirteen] NINE members,
14 [ten] SEVEN of whom shall be [certified dietitians or certified nutri-
15 tionists, except that the members of the first board need not be certi-
16 fied but shall be persons who are eligible for certification under the
17 provisions of this article prior to their appointment to the board]
18 LICENSED PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE. The [first] board, with respect to
19 members representing the profession, shall consist of [five] FOUR
20 members [registered] CREDENTIALLED by a national dietetic association
21 having [registration] CREDENTIALING standards acceptable to the depart-
22 ment and [five] THREE members who are [members of or registered] CREDE-
23 NIALIZED by a national nutritional association having [membership and/or
24 registration] CREDENTIALING standards acceptable to the department.
25 [Thereafter, members of the profession appointed to such board shall be
26 certified pursuant to this article.] To the extent reasonable, the board
27 of regents should insure the state board is broadly representative of
28 various [professional interests] PRACTICE AREAS within the dietetic and
29 [nutritional] NUTRITION community. [Three members] ONE MEMBER shall be
30 [representatives] REPRESENTATIVE of the general public AND ONE MEMBER
31 SHALL BE A PHYSICIAN LICENSED UNDER ARTICLE ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-ONE OF
32 THIS TITLE. An executive secretary to the board shall be appointed by
33 the board of regents on the recommendation of the commissioner.

34 S 7. Section 8004 of the education law, as added by chapter 635 of the
35 laws of 1991, subparagraph 2 of paragraph (a) of subdivision 2 and
36 subparagraph 2 of paragraph (b) of subdivision 2 and subdivision 3 as
37 amended by chapter 282 of the laws of 1992, is amended to read as
38 follows:

39 S 8004. Requirements for [certification] PROFESSIONAL LICENSE. To
40 qualify for [certification] A LICENSE, an applicant shall fulfill the
41 following requirements:

42 1. File an application with the department;

43 2. [(a)(1) Have received an education including a bachelor's degree,
44 or its equivalent as determined by the department, in
45 dietetics/nutrition or an equivalent major course of study which shall
46 include appropriate core curriculum courses in dietetics/nutrition from
47 an accredited college or university as approved by the department, in
48 accordance with the commissioner's regulations; and

49 (2) Have completed a planned, continuous, experience component, in
50 accordance with the commissioner's regulations, in dietetic or nutrition
51 practice under the supervision of a certified dietitian or certified
52 nutritionist or a dietitian or nutritionist who is registered by or is a
53 member of a national dietetic association or national nutrition associ-
54 ation having registration or membership standards acceptable to the
55 department; such experience shall be satisfactory to the board and in
56 accordance with the commissioner's regulations; or

1 (b)(1) Have received an education including an associates degree in
2 dietetics or nutrition acceptable to the department,

3 (2) In the last fifteen years have completed ten years of experience
4 and education in the field of dietetics or nutrition satisfactory to the
5 board in accordance with the commissioner's regulations. These ten years
6 must be the full time equivalent of any combination of post secondary
7 dietetic or nutrition education and dietetic or nutrition work experi-
8 ence satisfactory to the board in accordance with the commissioner's
9 regulations, and

10 (3) Have obtained the endorsement of three dietitians or nutritionists
11 acceptable to the department] HAVE RECEIVED A BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR HIGH-
12 ER WHICH INCLUDES APPROPRIATE MAJOR COURSE OF STUDY IN DIETETICS AND
13 NUTRITION, OR A BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR HIGHER AND POST GRADUATE COMPLETION
14 OF A MAJOR COURSE OF STUDY IN DIETETICS AND NUTRITION; FROM A PROGRAM
15 REGISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OR DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO BE THE
16 SUBSTANTIAL EQUIVALENT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COMMISSIONER'S REGU-
17 LATIONS. MAJOR COURSE OF STUDY IN DIETETICS AND NUTRITION SHALL INCLUDE
18 BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO SUCH AREAS AS HUMAN NUTRITION, NUTRITION EDUCA-
19 TION, FOOD AND NUTRITION, DIETETIC OR FOOD SYSTEMS AND MANAGEMENT WHICH
20 ADDRESSES THE PRACTICE OF DIETETICS AND NUTRITION UNDER VARYING CONDI-
21 TIONS OF HEALTH AND DISEASE, SOCIAL, PHYSICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL AND ECONOM-
22 IC STATUS FOR APPROPRIATE NUTRITION CARE;

23 3. DURING THE FIRST TWO YEARS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SUBDI-
24 VISION, COMPLETE AT A MINIMUM, NINE HUNDRED HOURS IN THE PRACTICE OF
25 DIETETICS AND NUTRITION IN A PLANNED, CONTINUOUS, ACCREDITED PROGRAM
26 EXPERIENCE UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF AN INDIVIDUAL LICENSED PURSUANT TO
27 THIS ARTICLE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COMMISSIONER'S REGULATIONS; AFTER
28 WHICH AND THEREAFTER, SUCH EXPERIENCE SHALL INCLUDE AT A MINIMUM TWELVE
29 HUNDRED HOURS;

30 A. AN ACCREDITED EXPERIENCE PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE EXPERIENCE IN A
31 VARIETY OF SETTINGS, WHICH MAY INCLUDE HOSPITALS, CLINICS, CORPORATIONS,
32 AND PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS AND INCLUDE A FORMAL OUTCOME EVALUATION OF
33 COMPETENCY IN DIETETICS AND NUTRITION PRACTICE.

34 B. PRACTICE IN AN ACCREDITED EXPERIENCE PROGRAM SHALL BE UNDER THE
35 SUPERVISION OF A LICENSED DIETITIAN/NUTRITIONIST, EXCEPT PRIOR TO THE
36 EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SUBDIVISION A SUPERVISOR NEED ONLY BE CERTIFIED
37 AS A DIETITIAN OR NUTRITIONIST PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE PRIOR TO THE
38 EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SUBDIVISION OR SHALL BE CREDENTIALIED BY A
39 NATIONAL DIETETIC CREDENTIALING ORGANIZATION OR CREDENTIALIED BY A
40 NATIONAL NUTRITIONAL CREDENTIALING ORGANIZATION. SUCH NATIONAL DIETETIC
41 CREDENTIALING ORGANIZATION OR NATIONAL NUTRITION CREDENTIALING ORGANIZA-
42 TION MUST BE ACCREDITED BY THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CERTIFYING AGEN-
43 CIES AND APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT AND HAVE CREDENTIALING STANDARDS
44 SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT TO STANDARDS SET FORTH FOR LICENSURE PURSUANT
45 TO THIS ARTICLE;

46 [3.] 4. Pass an examination satisfactory to the board and in accord-
47 ance with the commissioner's regulations; provided that such examination
48 shall test a level of knowledge and experience equivalent to that
49 obtained by an individual satisfactorily meeting the requirements of
50 [paragraph (a) of subdivision] SUBDIVISIONS two AND THREE of this
51 section;

52 [4.] 5. Pay a fee of one hundred seventy-five dollars to the depart-
53 ment for admission to a department conducted examination and for initial
54 certification, a fee of eighty-five dollars for each reexamination, a
55 fee of one hundred fifteen dollars for an initial certification for
56 persons not requiring admission to a department conducted examination, a

1 fee of one hundred [fifty-five] SEVENTY-FIVE dollars for each triennial
2 registration period;

3 [5.] 6. Be at least eighteen years of age;

4 7. BE OF GOOD MORAL CHARACTER AS DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

5 S 8. Section 8005 of the education law, as added by chapter 635 of the
6 laws of 1991, is amended to read as follows:

7 S 8005. Special provisions. 1. Nothing [contained in this article
8 shall be deemed to alter, modify or impair any conditions of employment
9 relating to service in the federal government, the state of New York,
10 its political subdivisions, including school districts, or special
11 districts and authorities or any facilities or institutions under the
12 jurisdiction of or subject to the certification of any agency of the
13 state of New York or its political subdivisions] IN THIS ARTICLE SHALL
14 PROHIBIT OR LIMIT ANY STATE, COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE ENGAGED IN THE
15 PRACTICE OF DIETETICS AND NUTRITION ON THE DATE THE CHAPTER OF THE LAWS
16 OF TWO THOUSAND FIFTEEN WHICH AMENDED THIS SECTION TAKES EFFECT FOR THE
17 PERIOD DURING WHICH THEY MAINTAIN SUCH EMPLOYMENT WITH SUCH GOVERNMENTAL
18 UNIT WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF SUCH EMPLOYMENT AND SHALL BE LIMITED TO THE
19 SERVICES PROVIDED UPON SUCH EFFECTIVE DATE, HOWEVER, THIS SECTION SHALL
20 NOT AUTHORIZE THE USE OF ANY TITLE AUTHORIZED PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE.
21 PROVIDED HOWEVER, THAT EMPLOYEES ENGAGED IN THE PRACTICE OF DIETETICS
22 AND NUTRITION HIRED TWO YEARS AFTER SUCH EFFECTIVE DATE SHALL BE SUBJECT
23 TO ALL THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS ARTICLE.

24 2. THIS ARTICLE SHALL NOT PROHIBIT DIETETIC AND NUTRITION PRACTICE BY
25 A CORPORATION, PROVIDED THAT SUCH PRACTICE IS CARRIED ON BY A LICENSED
26 DIETITIAN/NUTRITIONIST OR A PERSON EXEMPT UNDER THIS ARTICLE. A
27 VIOLATION OF THIS SUBDIVISION SHALL BE A CLASS A MISDEMEANOR.

28 S 9. Section 8006 of the education law, as added by chapter 635 of the
29 laws of 1991 and subdivision 2 as amended by chapter 282 of the laws of
30 1992, is amended to read as follows:

31 S 8006. Special conditions. [A person shall be certified without
32 examination provided that, within three years of the effective date of
33 this article, the individual:

34 1. files an application and pays the appropriate fees to the depart-
35 ment; and

36 2. (a) is registered as a dietitian or nutritionist by a national
37 dietetic or national nutrition association having registration standards
38 acceptable to the department;

39 (b) meets the requirements of subparagraph one of paragraph (a) of
40 subdivision two and subdivision five of section eight thousand four of
41 this article and has been actively engaged in the provision of nutrition
42 care services for a minimum of three years during the five years imme-
43 diately preceding the effective date of this article; or

44 (c) meets all the requirements of paragraph (b) of subdivision two and
45 subdivision five of section eight thousand four of this article.] ANY
46 PERSON WHO IS LICENSED AS A CERTIFIED DIETITIAN OR A CERTIFIED NUTRI-
47 TIONIST (CDN) ON THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE CHAPTER OF THE LAWS OF TWO
48 THOUSAND FIFTEEN WHICH AMENDED THIS SECTION SHALL BE LICENSED AS A
49 LICENSED DIETITIAN/NUTRITIONIST WITHOUT MEETING ANY ADDITIONAL REQUIRE-
50 MENTS.

51 S 10. The education law is amended by adding two new sections 8007 and
52 8008 to read as follows:

53 S 8007. EXEMPTIONS. THIS ARTICLE SHALL NOT BE CONSTRUED TO AFFECT OR
54 PREVENT:

55 1. A LICENSED PHYSICIAN FROM PRACTICING HIS OR HER PROFESSION AS
56 DEFINED UNDER ARTICLES ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-ONE AND ONE HUNDRED

THIRTY-ONE-B OF THIS TITLE; A REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL NURSE OR A CERTIFIED NURSE PRACTITIONER PRACTICING HIS OR HER PROFESSION AS DEFINED UNDER ARTICLE ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-NINE OF THIS TITLE; OR QUALIFIED MEMBERS OF OTHER PROFESSIONS LICENSED UNDER THIS TITLE FROM PERFORMING WORK INCIDENTAL TO THE PRACTICE OF THEIR PROFESSIONS, EXCEPT THAT SUCH PERSONS MAY NOT HOLD THEMSELVES OUT UNDER THE TITLE AUTHORIZED BY THIS ARTICLE;

2. AN INDIVIDUAL FROM ENGAGING IN THE PRACTICE OF DIETETICS OR NUTRITION WHILE PARTICIPATING IN THE EDUCATION OR EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS DEFINED IN SUBDIVISIONS TWO AND THREE OF SECTION EIGHT THOUSAND FOUR OF THIS ARTICLE;

3. ANY PERSON WHO DOES NOT HOLD HIMSELF OR HERSELF OUT TO BE LICENSED PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE FROM FURNISHING GENERAL NON-MEDICAL NUTRITION INFORMATION ON FOOD OR DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS; ENGAGING IN THE EXPLANATION TO CUSTOMERS ABOUT FOOD OR FOOD PRODUCTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE MARKETING AND DISTRIBUTION OF THOSE PRODUCTS; PROVIDED THAT NOTHING IN THIS SUBDIVISION SHALL BE DEEMED TO AUTHORIZE THE PROVISION OF MEDICAL NUTRITION THERAPY. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SUBDIVISION, "GENERAL NON-MEDICAL NUTRITION INFORMATION" MEANS INFORMATION ON THE FOLLOWING: (A) PRINCIPLES OF GOOD NUTRITION AND FOOD PREPARATION; (B) FOOD TO BE INCLUDED IN THE NORMAL DAILY DIET; (C) THE ESSENTIAL NUTRIENTS NEEDED BY THE BODY; (D) RECOMMENDED AMOUNTS OF THE ESSENTIAL NUTRIENTS, BASED ON ESTABLISHED STANDARDS; (E) THE ACTIONS OF NUTRIENTS ON THE BODY; (F) THE EFFECTS OF DEFICIENCIES OR EXCESSES OF NUTRIENTS; OR (G) FOOD AND SUPPLEMENTS THAT ARE GOOD SOURCES OF ESSENTIAL NUTRIENTS; AND

4. A PERSON FROM PRESENTING A GENERAL PROGRAM OF INSTRUCTION FOR WEIGHT CONTROL PROVIDED THE GENERAL PROGRAM IS APPROVED IN WRITING BY A LICENSED DIETITIAN, A DIETITIAN REGISTERED BY THE COMMISSION OF DIETETIC REGISTRATION OF THE AMERICAN DIETETIC ASSOCIATION OR A LICENSED PHYSICIAN, PROVIDED THAT, NO TITLE, SIGN, CARD OR DEVICE SHALL BE USED IN SUCH MANNER AS TO TEND TO CONVEY THE IMPRESSION THAT THE PERSON RENDERING SUCH SERVICE IS LICENSED PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE.

5. AN INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYED BY A WIC PROGRAM AS A "COMPETENT PROFESSIONAL AUTHORITY" AS DEFINED IN 7 C.F.R S 246.2 (1895) FROM PROVIDING NUTRITION SERVICES WITHIN SUCH WIC PROGRAM. FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE SUBDIVISION THE TERM "WIC PROGRAM" SHALL MEAN A PROGRAM AUTHORIZED BY 42 U.S.C. S 1786.

S 8008. LIMITED PERMIT. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ISSUE A LIMITED PERMIT TO AN APPLICANT FOR LICENSURE WHO HAS MET ALL THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION EIGHT THOUSAND FOUR OF THIS ARTICLE, BUT HAS NOT YET PASSED THE EXAMINATION. 1. THE DURATION OF A LIMITED PERMIT SHALL NOT EXCEED ONE YEAR FROM THE TIME OF ITS FIRST ISSUE AND THE DEPARTMENT MAY FOR GOOD CAUSE RENEW A LIMITED PERMIT PROVIDED THAT NO APPLICANT SHALL PRACTICE UNDER ANY LIMITED PERMIT FOR MORE THAN A TOTAL OF TWO YEARS.

2. ALL PRACTICE UNDER A LIMITED PERMIT SHALL BE UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF AN INDIVIDUAL LICENSED PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE.

3. THE FEE FOR EACH LIMITED PERMIT SHALL BE SEVENTY-FIVE DOLLARS.

S 11. This act shall take effect one year after it shall have become a law; provided however, that effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date is authorized and directed to be made and completed by the department of education on or before such effective date.