
Health Care & Wellness Committee

HB 1629

Brief Description: Concerning credentialing and continuing education requirements for long-term care workers.

Sponsors: Representatives Cody, Schmick, Jinkins, Tharinger, Green, Pollet, Morrell, Santos and Ryu.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Extends the number of days that a long-term care worker has to become a certified home care aide from 150 to 200 days after the date of hire.
- Exempts registered nurses and licensed practical nurses from continuing education requirements applicable to long-term care workers.

Hearing Date: 2/12/13

Staff: Chris Blake (786-7392).

Background:

A long-term care worker is any person who provides paid, hands-on personal care services for the elderly or persons with disabilities. The term includes individual providers of home care services, direct care workers employed by home care agencies, providers of home care services to people with developmental disabilities, direct care workers in assisted-living facilities and adult family homes, and respite care providers. The term does not include employees of nursing homes, hospitals, acute care settings, residential habilitation centers, hospice agencies, adult day care centers, and adult day health centers. The term also excludes people who are not paid by the state or any private agency or facility licensed by the state to provide personal care services.

Long-term care workers must become certified home care aides unless an exemption applies. Exempt individuals include registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, certified nursing assistants, home health aides, long-term care workers employed by community residential service businesses, and individual providers caring for only their biological, step, or adoptive

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child or parent. In many cases, individuals who are exempt from home care aide certification must still meet specific training requirements in order to provide caregiver activities.

Long-term care workers must be certified as home care aides within 150 days after the date of hire. To become certified as a home care aide, a long-term care worker must complete 75 hours of training, pass a certification examination, and pass state and federal background checks. Long-term care workers may work once they have completed five hours of safety and orientation training. Long-term care workers who have not received home care aide certification within 150 days from the date of hire are prohibited from working.

Summary of Bill:

The number of days that a long-term care worker has to become a certified home care aide is increased from 150 to 200 days after the date of hire. Registered nurses and licensed practical nurses are exempt from the continuing education training required for long-term care workers.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.