

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 2706

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE BERNSKOETTER.

6782H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal sections 324.200, 324.205, and 324.210, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof three new sections relating to dietitians.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 324.200, 324.205, and 324.210, RSMo, are repealed and three new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 324.200, 324.205, and 324.210, to read as follows:

324.200. 1. Sections 324.200 to 324.225 shall be known and may be cited as the "Dietitian Practice Act".

2. As used in sections 324.200 to 324.225, the following terms shall mean:

(1) "~~Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education (CADE)~~, the American Dietetic Association's **Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics**" or **"ACEND"**, the **Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics** accrediting agency for education programs preparing students for professions as registered dietitians;

(2) "Committee", the state committee of dietitians established in section 324.203;

(3) "Dietetics practice", the application of principles derived from integrating knowledge of food, nutrition, biochemistry, physiology, management, and behavioral and social science to achieve and maintain the health of people by providing nutrition assessment and nutrition care services. The primary function of dietetic practice is the provision of nutrition care services that shall include, but not be limited to:

(a) Assessing the nutrition needs of individuals and groups and determining resources and constraints in the practice setting;

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

- 16 (b) Establishing priorities, goals, and objectives that meet nutrition needs and are
17 consistent with available resources and constraints;
- 18 (c) Providing nutrition counseling or education in health and disease;
- 19 (d) Developing, implementing, and managing nutrition care systems;
- 20 (e) Evaluating, making changes in, and maintaining appropriate standards of quality and
21 safety in food and in nutrition services;
- 22 (f) Engaged in medical nutritional therapy as defined in subdivision (8) of this section;
- 23 (4) "Dietitian", one engaged in dietetic practice as defined in subdivision (3) of this
24 section;
- 25 (5) "Director", the director of the division of professional registration;
- 26 (6) "Division", the division of professional registration;
- 27 (7) "Licensed dietitian", a person who is licensed pursuant to the provisions of sections
28 324.200 to 324.225 to engage in the practice of dietetics or medical nutrition therapy;
- 29 (8) "Medical nutrition therapy", nutritional diagnostic, therapy, and counseling services
30 which are furnished by a registered dietitian **or registered dietitian nutritionist**;
- 31 (9) "Registered dietitian" **or "registered dietitian nutritionist"**, a person who:
- 32 (a) Has completed a minimum of a baccalaureate degree granted by a United States
33 regionally accredited college or university or foreign equivalent;
- 34 (b) Completed the academic requirements of a didactic program in dietetics, as approved
35 by ~~[CADE]~~ **ACEND**;
- 36 (c) Successfully completed the registration examination for dietitians; and
- 37 (d) Accrued seventy-five hours of approved continuing professional units every five
38 years; as determined by the committee on dietetic registration.

324.205. 1. Any person who holds a license to practice dietetics in this state may use
2 the title "Dietitian" or the abbreviation "L.D." **or "L.D.N."**. No other person may use the title
3 "Dietitian" or the abbreviation "L.D." **or "L.D.N."**. No other person shall assume any title or use
4 any title or use any abbreviation or any other words, letters, signs, or devices to indicate that the
5 person using the same is a licensed dietitian.

6 2. No person shall practice or offer to practice dietetics in this state for compensation or
7 use any title, sign, abbreviation, card, or device to indicate that such person is practicing dietetics
8 unless he or she has been duly licensed pursuant to the provisions of sections 324.200 to
9 324.225.

10 3. Any person who violates the provisions of subsection 1 of this section is guilty of a
11 class A misdemeanor.

324.210. 1. An applicant for licensure as a dietitian shall be at least twenty-one years
2 of age.

3 2. Each applicant shall furnish evidence to the committee that:

4 (1) The applicant has completed a didactic program in dietetics which is approved or
5 accredited by the ~~[commission on accreditation for dietetics education]~~ **Accreditation Council**
6 **for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics** and a minimum of a baccalaureate degree from an
7 acceptable educational institution accredited by a regional accrediting body or accredited by an
8 accrediting body which has been approved by the United States Department of Education.
9 Applicants who have obtained their education outside of the United States and its territories must
10 have their academic degrees validated as equivalent to the baccalaureate or master's degree
11 conferred by a regionally accredited college or university in the United States. Validation of a
12 foreign degree does not eliminate the need for a verification statement of completion of a
13 didactic program in dietetics;

14 (2) The applicant has completed a supervised practice requirement from an institution
15 that is certified by a nationally recognized professional organization as having a dietetics
16 specialty or who meets criteria for dietetics education established by the committee. The
17 committee may specify those professional organization certifications which are to be recognized
18 and may set standards for education training and experience required for those without such
19 specialty certification to become dietitians.

20 3. The applicant shall successfully pass an examination as determined by the committee
21 and possess a current registration with the Commission on Dietetic Registration. The committee
22 may waive the examination requirement and grant licensure to an applicant for a license as a
23 dietitian who presents satisfactory evidence to the committee of current registration as a dietitian
24 with the commission on dietetic registration.

25 4. Prior to July 1, 2000, a person may apply for licensure without examination and shall
26 be exempt from the academic requirements of this section if the committee is satisfied that the
27 applicant has a bachelor's degree in a program approved by the committee and has work
28 experience approved by the committee.

29 5. The committee may determine the type of documentation needed to verify that an
30 applicant meets the qualifications provided in subsection 3 of this section.

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