

HB 817 -- CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANTS

SPONSOR: Swan

This bill makes changes to the nursing assistant statute to apply to certified nursing assistants. A certified nursing assistant is defined as an employee who has completed the required training, passed a certification exam, and has been assigned to a skilled nursing or intermediate care facility, unit, or hospital.

The bill requires a nursing assistant training program to be approved by the Board of Nursing; currently the program is approved by the Department of Health and Senior Services. Training program locations must be approved by the Board of Nursing or may be in a skilled nursing or intermediate care unit in a Missouri veterans home or in any hospital. The training program requirements will be defined in regulation by the Board of Nursing. This bill removes specific training topic requirements. The bill removes training requirements for nursing assistants trained prior to January 1, 1989.

The bill removes a requirement that certified nursing assistants complete 12 hours of basic orientation approved by the department. The bill requires direct supervision from a licensed nurse for a certified nursing assistant to provide direct resident care prior to completion of the 75 classroom hours of training.

This bill requires any competency evaluation to be performed in a facility or laboratory comparable to the setting in which the certified nursing assistant will function.

A person who has completed unlicensed assistive personnel training and the competency evaluation are allowed to sit for the certified nursing assistant examination.

The department may offer additional training programs and certifications to students who are already certified as nursing assistants.