



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2001 Assembly Bill 427

Assembly Amendment 1

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CURRENT LAW

Chapter 456, Stats., governs nursing home administrators. Current law requires a person to satisfy certain educational requirements before taking the examination for a nursing home administrator license. Specifically, the person must complete a regular course of study, equivalent specialized courses or a program of study that the nursing home administrator examining board considers adequate academic preparation for nursing home administration.

The examining board is also required to develop and enforce standards regarding the supervised practical experience required for a person to be licensed as a nursing home administrator. Current law allows a person to satisfy the supervised practical experience requirements before or after taking the examination.

Current law allows a person who holds a nursing home administrator license issued by the proper authorities in another state to be eligible for a reciprocal nursing home administrator license in Wisconsin if he or she pays a specified fee and submits satisfactory evidence of the person's qualifications to the examining board.

ASSEMBLY BILL 427

Assembly Bill 427 changes the education requirements that a person must satisfy before taking the nursing home administrator examination. The bill requires a person to have either: (1) a bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree with a major in health care administration from an accredited college or university; or (2) a bachelor's degree in any field from an accredited college or university and completion of a specialized course that the examining board determines is adequate preparation for nursing home administration.

The bill also directs the examining board to create rules establishing supervised practical experience requirements that a person must satisfy *before* taking the examination. The rules must require a person to complete at least 2,000 hours in an internship, administrator-in-training program, or other structured program before he or she may take the examination. The 2,000 hours must be completed in any consecutive three-year period within the five-year period immediately preceding the date of application for the examination.

Regarding reciprocity, the bill expands the qualifications that a person must have to be eligible for a reciprocal nursing home administrator license. An applicant for a reciprocal license must have a bachelor's degree or hold a current certification as a nursing home administrator granted by the American College of Health Care Administrators and must have practiced in good standing for at least 2,000 hours in any consecutive three-year period within the five-year period immediately preceding the date of application for the reciprocal license. In addition, the applicant must not have an arrest or conviction record the circumstances of which substantially relate to nursing home administration. Finally, the person must pass an examination approved by the examining board relating to state and federal laws governing the practice of nursing home administration. The reciprocal license requirements will first apply to applications received by the examining board on the date on which this bill becomes law.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1

Assembly Amendment 1 creates an exemption from the requirements of ch. 456 for an administrator of a nursing home operated by adherents of a church or religious denomination which subscribes to the act of healing by prayer and the principles of which are opposed to medical treatment.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

On May 31, 2001, the Assembly Aging and Long Term Care Committee recommended passage of Assembly Bill 427 on a vote of Ayes, 9; Noes, 0. On November 6, 2001, the Assembly adopted Assembly Amendment 1 on a voice vote and passed Assembly Bill 427, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 96; Noes, 2.

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