

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
 ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE
 FIRST SESSION
LEGISLATIVE BILL 42
 Final Reading

Introduced by Cook, 13.
 Read first time January 10, 2013
 Committee: Health and Human Services

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to the Nursing Home Administrator Practice Act;
 2 to amend sections 38-2401, 38-2402, 38-2418, 38-2419, and
 3 38-2420, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to define
 4 a term; to provide and eliminate requirements for a
 5 credential as an administrator of a facility operated
 6 primarily for caring for persons with head injuries and
 7 associated disorders; to provide requirements for such
 8 facilities; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the
 9 original sections.

10 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 38-2401, Reissue Revised Statutes of
2 Nebraska, is amended to read:

3 38-2401 Sections 38-2401 to 38-2425 and sections 3 and 7
4 of this act shall be known and may be cited as the Nursing Home
5 Administrator Practice Act.

6 Sec. 2. Section 38-2402, Reissue Revised Statutes of
7 Nebraska, is amended to read:

8 38-2402 For purposes of the Nursing Home Administrator
9 Practice Act and elsewhere in the Uniform Credentialing Act, unless
10 the context otherwise requires, the definitions found in sections
11 38-2403 to 38-2416 and section 3 of this act apply.

12 Sec. 3. Facility operated primarily for caring for
13 persons with head injuries and associated disorders means a nursing
14 home in which all or a majority of the persons served by the nursing
15 home have head injuries and associated disorders.

16 Sec. 4. Section 38-2418, Reissue Revised Statutes of
17 Nebraska, is amended to read:

18 38-2418 Each nursing home within the state shall be
19 operated under the supervision of an administrator duly licensed in
20 the manner provided in the Nursing Home Administrator Practice Act.
21 Each facility within the state operated primarily for caring for
22 persons with head injuries and associated disorders shall be operated
23 under the supervision of an administrator duly licensed in the manner
24 provided in the Nursing Home Administrator Practice Act. If there is
25 a vacancy in the position of licensed administrator of a nursing

1 home, the owner, governing body, or other appropriate authority of
2 the nursing home may select a person to apply for a provisional
3 license in nursing home administration to serve as the administrator
4 of such facility.

5 Sec. 5. Section 38-2419, Reissue Revised Statutes of
6 Nebraska, is amended to read:

7 38-2419 (1) The department shall issue a license to an
8 applicant who submits (a) satisfactory evidence of completion of (i)
9 an associate degree which includes the core educational requirements
10 and an administrator-in-training program under a certified preceptor,
11 (ii) a degree or an advanced degree and a mentoring program under a
12 certified preceptor, (iii) a nursing degree, previous work experience
13 in health care administration, and a mentoring program under a
14 certified preceptor, (iv) a degree or an advanced degree in health
15 care and previous work experience in health care administration, or
16 (v) an associate degree which includes the core educational
17 requirements, previous work experience, and a mentoring program under
18 a certified preceptor, and (b) evidence of successful passage of the
19 National Association of Boards of Examiners for Nursing Home
20 Administration written examination.

21 (2) The department shall license administrators in
22 accordance with the Nursing Home Administrator Practice Act and
23 standards, rules, and regulations adopted and promulgated by the
24 department, with the recommendation of the board. The license shall
25 not be transferable or assignable.

1 (3) Each administrator shall be responsible for and
2 oversee the operation of only one licensed facility or one integrated
3 system, except that an administrator may make application to the
4 department for approval to be responsible for and oversee the
5 operations of a maximum of three licensed facilities if such
6 facilities are located within two hours' travel time of each other or
7 to act in the dual role of administrator and department head but not
8 in the dual role of administrator and director of nursing. In
9 reviewing the application, the department may consider the proximity
10 of the facilities and the number of licensed beds in each facility.
11 An administrator responsible for and overseeing the operations of any
12 integrated system is subject to disciplinary action against his or
13 her license for any regulatory violations within each system.

14 ~~(4)(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of the Nursing Home~~
15 ~~Administrator Practice Act, the department shall issue a license as a~~
16 ~~nursing home administrator to an applicant who will function as the~~
17 ~~administrator of a facility caring primarily for persons with head~~
18 ~~injuries and associated disorders who submits satisfactory evidence~~
19 ~~that he or she (i) has at least two years of experience working with~~
20 ~~persons with head injuries or severe physical disabilities, at least~~
21 ~~one of which was spent in an administrative capacity, (ii) is (A) a~~
22 ~~psychologist with at least a master's degree in psychology from an~~
23 ~~accredited college or university and has specialized training or one~~
24 ~~year of experience working with persons with traumatic head injury or~~
25 ~~severe physical disability, (B) a physician licensed under the~~

1 ~~Uniform Credentialing Act to practice medicine and surgery or~~
2 ~~psychiatry and has specialized training or one year of experience~~
3 ~~working with persons with traumatic head injury or severe physical~~
4 ~~disability, (C) an educator with at least a master's degree in~~
5 ~~education from an accredited college or university and has~~
6 ~~specialized training or one year of experience working with persons~~
7 ~~with traumatic head injury or severe physical disability, or (D) a~~
8 ~~certified social worker, a certified master social worker, or a~~
9 ~~licensed mental health practitioner certified or licensed under the~~
10 ~~Uniform Credentialing Act and has at least three years of social work~~
11 ~~or mental health practice experience and specialized training or one~~
12 ~~or more years of experience working with persons who have experienced~~
13 ~~traumatic head injury or are severely physically disabled, and (iii)~~
14 ~~is of good moral character. The applicant shall also provide his or~~
15 ~~her social security number.~~

16 ~~(b) A license issued pursuant to this subsection shall be~~
17 ~~issued without examination and without the requirement of completion~~
18 ~~of an administrator in training or mentoring program. Such license~~
19 ~~may be renewed without the completion of any continuing competency~~
20 ~~requirements.~~

21 ~~Sec. 6. Section 38-2420, Reissue Revised Statutes of~~
22 ~~Nebraska, is amended to read:~~

23 ~~38-2420 (1) Except as provided in subdivision (1)(a)(iv)~~
24 ~~and subsection (4) of section 38-2419 and section 7 of this act, in~~
25 ~~order for a person to become licensed as a nursing home~~

1 administrator, he or she shall complete an administrator-in-training
2 program or a mentoring program. The administrator-in-training program
3 shall occur in a nursing home under the direct supervision of a
4 certified preceptor, and it may be gained as an internship which is
5 part of an approved associate degree. A mentoring program shall occur
6 in a nursing home under the supervision of a certified preceptor. The
7 certified preceptor in a mentoring program need not be at such
8 facility during the period of such supervision but shall be available
9 to assist with questions or problems as needed. A mentoring program
10 may be gained as an internship which is part of a degree or advanced
11 degree. A person in a mentoring program may apply for a provisional
12 license as provided in section 38-2423.

13 (2) An applicant may begin his or her administrator-in-
14 training or mentoring program upon application to the department with
15 the required fee, evidence that he or she has completed at least
16 fifty percent of the core educational requirements, and evidence of
17 an agreement between the certified preceptor and the applicant for at
18 least six hundred forty hours of training and experience, to be
19 gained in not less than four months. Such training shall occur in a
20 Nebraska-licensed nursing home under a certified preceptor.

21 (3) The certified preceptor shall submit a report to the
22 department by the fifth day of each month for the duration of the
23 administrator-in-training or mentoring program, describing the nature
24 and extent of training completed to date. At the conclusion of the
25 program, the certified preceptor shall report to the department

1 whether the applicant has successfully completed the board's approved
2 course for such program. With the concurrence of the certified
3 preceptor, the applicant may remain in such program until
4 successfully completed or may reapply to enter another administrator-
5 in-training or mentoring program.

6 (4)(a) The administrator-in-training or mentoring program
7 shall occur under the supervision of a certified preceptor. An
8 applicant to become a certified preceptor shall (i) be currently
9 licensed as a nursing home administrator in the State of Nebraska,
10 (ii) have three years of experience as a nursing home administrator
11 in the five years immediately preceding certification, and (iii)
12 complete a preceptor training course approved by the board.

13 (b) All preceptor certificates shall expire on December
14 31 of every fourth year beginning December 31, 2000. Before acting on
15 an application for renewal, the board shall review the performance of
16 the applicant. Such review may include consideration of survey and
17 complaint information, student evaluations, and any other related
18 information deemed relevant by the board. The board may deny an
19 application for renewal upon a finding that the applicant's
20 performance has been unsatisfactory based on such review.

21 Sec. 7. (1) In order to qualify to function as the
22 administrator of a facility operated primarily for caring for persons
23 with head injuries and associated disorders, an individual shall be
24 licensed as a nursing home administrator if he or she meets the
25 requirements of this section. A license issued under this section

1 permits the holder to serve as a nursing home administrator only in a
2 facility operated primarily for caring for persons with head injuries
3 and associated disorders.

4 (2) To receive a credential to practice nursing home
5 administration for a facility operated primarily for caring for
6 persons with head injuries and associated disorders, an individual
7 shall:

8 (a) Have at least four years of experience working with
9 persons with head injuries or severe physical disabilities, at least
10 two of which were spent in an administrative capacity; and

11 (b) Either:

12 (i) Hold a credential as:

13 (A) A psychologist pursuant to the Uniform Credentialing
14 Act, with at least a master's degree in psychology from an accredited
15 college or university;

16 (B) A physician licensed pursuant to the Uniform
17 Credentialing Act to practice medicine and surgery or psychiatry;

18 (C) An educator with at least a master's degree in
19 education from an accredited college or university;

20 (D) A certified social worker, a certified master social
21 worker, or a licensed mental health practitioner pursuant to the
22 Uniform Credentialing Act;

23 (E) A physical therapist, an occupational therapist, or a
24 speech-language pathologist pursuant to the Uniform Credentialing
25 Act; or

1 (F) An administrator or executive of a health care
2 facility as defined in section 71-413 who is a member in good
3 standing with an organization that offers voluntary certification for
4 the purpose of demonstrating managerial knowledge and experience for
5 health care managers; or

6 (ii) Have at least eight years of experience working with
7 persons with head injuries or severe physical disabilities, at least
8 five of which were spent in an administrative capacity in a facility
9 operated primarily for caring for persons with head injuries or
10 severe physical disabilities.

11 (3) A license issued pursuant to this section shall be
12 issued without examination and without the requirement of completion
13 of an administrator-in-training or mentoring program. Such license
14 may be renewed without the completion of any continuing competency
15 requirements.

16 Sec. 8. Original sections 38-2401, 38-2402, 38-2418,
17 38-2419, and 38-2420, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, are
18 repealed.