

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1989

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SENATE BILL 655*

Short Title: Dietetics/Nutrition Practice Act.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Harris; Tally, Parnell, Smith, Carpenter, and Guy.

Referred to: Human Resources.

March 27, 1989

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REGULATE THE PRACTICE OF DIETETICS/NUTRITION.
3 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:
4 Section 1. The General Statutes are amended by adding a new Chapter to
5 read:

6 **“CHAPTER 90D.**
7 **"DIETETICS/NUTRITION.**

8 **"§ 90D-1. Short title.**

9 This Chapter shall be known as the Dietetics/Nutrition Practice Act.

10 **"§ 90D-2. Purpose.**

11 It is the purpose of this Chapter to safeguard the public health, safety and welfare
12 and to protect the public from being harmed by unqualified persons by providing for the
13 licensure and regulation of persons engaged in the practice of dietetics/nutrition and by
14 the establishment of educational standards for such persons.

15 **"§ 90D-3. Definitions.**

16 As used in this Chapter, unless the context otherwise requires, the term:

17 (1) ‘Board’ means the North Carolina Board of Dietetics/Nutrition.

18 (2) ‘Dietetics/nutrition’ means the integration and application of principles
19 derived from the science of nutrition, biochemistry, physiology, food,
20 management, and behavioral and social sciences to achieve and
21 maintain a healthy status. The primary function of dietetic/nutrition
22 practice is the provision of nutrition care services as herein defined.

23 (3) ‘Licensed dietitian/nutritionist’ means an individual licensed in good
24 standing to practice dietetics/nutrition as defined in this Chapter.

- 1 (4) 'Nutrition care services' shall mean any, part or all of the following:
2 a. Assessing the nutritional needs of individuals and groups, and
3 determining resources and constraints in the practice setting.
4 b. Establishing priorities, goals, and objectives that meet
5 nutritional needs and are consistent with available resources and
6 constraints.
7 c. Providing nutrition counseling in health and disease.
8 d. Developing, implementing, and managing nutrition care
9 systems.
10 e. Evaluating, making changes in, and maintaining appropriate
11 standards of quality in food and nutrition services.

12 'Nutrition care services' shall not include the retail sale of food products or
13 vitamins.

14 **"§ 90D-4. Creation of Board.**

15 (a) The North Carolina Board of Dietetics/Nutrition is created. The Board shall
16 consist of seven members as follows:

- 17 (1) One member shall be a professional whose primary practice is clinical
18 dietetics/nutrition;
19 (2) One member shall be a professional whose primary practice is
20 community or public health dietetics/nutrition;
21 (3) One member shall be a professional whose primary practice is
22 consulting in dietetics/nutrition;
23 (4) One member shall be a professional whose primary practice is in
24 management of food and/or nutritional services;
25 (5) One member shall be an educator on the faculty of a college or
26 university specializing in the field of dietetics/nutrition;
27 (6) Two members shall represent the public at large.

28 (b) Professional members of the Board shall:

- 29 (1) Be citizens of the United States and residents of this State;
30 (2) Have practiced in the field of dietetics/nutrition for at least five years;
31 and
32 (3) Be licensed under this Chapter, except that initial appointees shall be
33 licensed under this Chapter no later than March 31, 1990.

34 (c) The members of the Board appointed from the public at large shall be
35 citizens of the United States and residents of this State and shall not be
36 dietitians/nutritionists or agents or employees of persons engaged in the profession of
37 dietetics/nutrition or licensed health care professionals or agents or employees of health
38 care institutions, health care insurers, health care professional schools, or members of
39 any allied health profession. For purposes of this subsection, a person enrolled in a
40 program to prepare him to be a licensed health care professional or an allied health
41 professional shall not be eligible to serve as a public member of the Board. The spouse
42 of any person who would be prohibited by this subsection from serving on the Board as
43 a public member shall not serve as a public member of the Board.

1 **"§ 90D-5. Appointments and removal of Board members, terms and**
2 **compensation.**

3 (a) The members of the Board shall be appointed as follows:

4 (1) The Governor shall appoint the professional member described in G.S.
5 90D-4(a)(5) and the two public members described in G.S. 90D-
6 4(a)(6);

7 (2) The General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Speaker of the
8 House of Representatives shall appoint the professional members
9 described in G.S. 90D-4(a)(1) and G.S. 90D-4(a)(2) in accordance
10 with G.S. 120-121; and

11 (3) The General Assembly upon the recommendation of the President Pro
12 Tempore of the Senate shall appoint the professional members
13 described in G.S. 90D-4(a)(3) and G.S. 90D-4(a)(4); in accordance
14 with G.S. 120-121.

15 (b) Of the members initially appointed, the professional member appointed by
16 the Governor, one of the professional members appointed by the General Assembly
17 upon the recommendation of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and one of
18 the professional members appointed by the General Assembly upon the
19 recommendation of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall be appointed for
20 three-year terms; one of the public members appointed by the Governor, one of the
21 professional members appointed by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of
22 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and one of the professional members
23 appointed by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the President Pro
24 Tempore of the Senate shall be appointed for two-year terms; and one of the public
25 members appointed by the Governor shall be appointed for a one-year term. After the
26 initial terms specified in this subsection, members of the Board shall take office on the
27 first day of July immediately following the expired term of that office and shall serve
28 for a term of three years and until their successors are appointed and qualified.

29 (c) No member shall serve on the Board for more than two consecutive terms.

30 (d) The Governor may remove members of the Board after notice and
31 opportunity for hearing, for:

32 (1) Incompetence;

33 (2) Neglect of duty;

34 (3) Unprofessional conduct;

35 (4) Conviction of any felony;

36 (5) Failure to meet the qualifications of this Chapter; or

37 (6) Committing any act prohibited by this Chapter.

38 (e) Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority originally filling that
39 position, except that any vacancy in appointments by the General Assembly shall be
40 filled in accordance with G.S. 120-122.

41 (f) Members of the Board shall receive no compensation for their services, but
42 shall be entitled to travel, per diem, and other expenses authorized by G.S. 93B-5.

43 **"§ 90D-6. Election of officers; meetings of Board.**

1 (a) Within 30 days after making appointments to the Board, the Governor shall
2 call the first meeting of the Board. The Board shall elect a chairman and a vice-
3 chairman who shall hold office according to rules adopted by the Board.

4 (b) The Board shall hold at least two regular meetings each year as provided
5 by rules adopted by the Board. The Board may hold additional meetings upon the call
6 of the chairman or any two Board members. A majority of the Board membership shall
7 constitute a quorum.

8 **"§ 90D-7. Power and responsibility of Board.**

9 The Board shall:

- 10 (1) Determine the qualifications and fitness of applicants for licenses,
11 renewal of licenses, and reciprocal licenses;
- 12 (2) Adopt rules necessary to conduct its business, carry out its duties, and
13 administer this Chapter;
- 14 (3) Adopt and publish a code of ethics;
- 15 (4) Examine for, approve, issue, deny, revoke, suspend, and renew the
16 licenses of dietitians/nutritionists applicants and licensees under this
17 Chapter and conduct hearings in connection with these actions;
- 18 (5) Conduct investigations, subpoena individuals and records, and do all
19 other things necessary and proper to discipline persons licensed under
20 this Chapter and to enforce this Chapter;
- 21 (6) Employ professional, clerical, investigative or special personnel
22 necessary to carry out the provisions of this Chapter, and purchase or
23 rent office space, equipment and supplies;
- 24 (7) Adopt a seal by which it shall authenticate its proceedings, official
25 records, and licenses;
- 26 (8) Conduct administrative hearings in accordance with Article 3 of
27 Chapter 150B of the General Statutes when a 'contested case' as
28 defined in G.S. 150B-2(2) arises under this Chapter;
- 29 (9) Establish reasonable fees as allowed by this Chapter for applications
30 for examination; initial, provisional, and renewal licenses; and other
31 services provided by the Board;
- 32 (10) Submit an annual report to the Governor and General Assembly of all
33 its official actions during the preceding year, together with any
34 recommendations and findings regarding improvements of the practice
35 of dietetics/nutrition;
- 36 (11) Publish and make available upon request the licensure standards
37 prescribed under this Chapter and all rules and regulations established
38 by the Board;
- 39 (12) Request and receive the assistance of State educational institutions or
40 other State agencies;
- 41 (13) Approve educational curricula, clinical practice and continuing
42 education requirements for persons seeking licensure under this
43 Chapter.

44 **"§ 90D-8. License requirements.**

1 Each applicant for a license as a licensed dietitian/nutritionist shall meet the
2 following requirements:

3 (1) Has submitted a completed application as required by the Board; and

4 (2) Has submitted any fees required by the Board; and

5 (3) Either:

6 a. Has provided evidence of current registration as a Registered
7 Dietitian by the Commission on Dietetic Registration; or

8 b. 1. Has received a minimum of a baccalaureate degree
9 from a regionally accredited college or university with a
10 major course of study in human nutrition, food and
11 nutrition, dietetics, community nutrition, public health
12 nutrition, food systems management, or an equivalent
13 major course of study, as approved by the Board.
14 Regardless of the course of study, applicants must have
15 successfully completed the Board's minimum course
16 requirements in food sciences, social and behavioral
17 sciences, chemistry, biology, human nutrition, diet
18 therapy, advanced nutrition, and food systems
19 management. Applicants who have obtained their
20 education outside of the United States and its territories
21 must have their academic degree(s) validated as
22 equivalent to a baccalaureate or masters degree conferred
23 by a regionally accredited college or university in the
24 United States; and

25 ___ 2. Has completed a planned, continuous program in
26 approved clinical practice of not less than 900 hours
27 under the supervision of a licensed dietitian/nutritionist
28 as approved by the Board; and

29 ___ 3. Has passed an examination as defined by the Board.

30 **"§ 90D-9. Notification of applicant following evaluation of application.**

31 After evaluation of the application and of any other evidence submitted, the Board
32 shall notify each applicant that the application and evidence submitted are satisfactory
33 and accepted or unsatisfactory and rejected. If rejected, the notice shall state the reasons
34 for the rejection.

35 **"§ 90D-10. Examinations.**

36 Competency examinations shall be administered at least twice each calendar year to
37 qualified applicants for licensing. The examinations may be administered by a national
38 testing service. The Board shall prescribe or develop the examinations which may
39 include an examination given by the Commission on Dietetic Registration of the
40 American Dietetic Association or any other examination approved by two-thirds vote of
41 the entire Board.

42 **"§ 90D-11. Granting license without examination.**

43 The Board may grant, upon application and payment of proper fees, a license
44 without examination to a person who at the time of application holds a valid license as a

1 licensed dietitian/nutritionist issued by another state or any political territory or
2 jurisdiction acceptable to the Board if in the Board's opinion the requirements for that
3 license are substantially the same as the requirements of this Chapter.

4 **"§ 90D-12. Provisional licenses.**

5 The Board may grant a provisional license for a period not exceeding 12 months to
6 any individual who has successfully completed the educational and clinical practice
7 requirements and has made application to take the examination required under G.S.
8 90D-8. A provisional license shall allow the individual to practice as a
9 dietitian/nutritionist under the supervision of a dietitian/nutritionist licensed in this State
10 and shall be valid until revoked by the Board.

11 **"§ 90D-13. License as constituting property of Board; display requirement;**
12 **renewal; inactive status.**

13 (a) A license issued by the Board is the property of the Board and must be
14 surrendered to the Board on demand.

15 (b) The licensee shall display the license certificate in the manner prescribed
16 by the Board.

17 (c) The licensee shall inform the Board of any change of his address.

18 (d) The license shall be reissued by the Board annually upon payment of a
19 renewal fee if the licensee is not in violation of this Chapter at the time of application
20 for renewal and if the applicant fulfills current requirements of continuing education as
21 established by the Board.

22 (e) Each person licensed under this Chapter is responsible for renewing his
23 license before the expiration date. The Board shall notify licensee of pending license
24 expiration at least 30 days in advance thereof.

25 (f) The Board may provide for the late renewal of a license upon the payment of
26 a late fee in accordance with G.S. 90D-15, but no such late fee renewal may be granted
27 more than five years after license expires.

28 (g) Under procedures and conditions established by the Board, a licensee may
29 request that his license be declared inactive. The licensee may apply for active status at
30 any time and upon meeting the conditions set by the Board shall be declared in active
31 status.

32 **"§ 90D-14. Suspension, revocation and refusal to renew license.**

33 (a) The Board may deny or refuse to renew a license, may suspend or revoke a
34 license, or may impose probationary conditions on a license if the licensee or applicant
35 for licensure has engaged in any of the following conduct:

36 (1) Employment of fraud, deceit or misrepresentation in obtaining or
37 attempting to obtain a license, or the renewal thereof;

38 (2) Committing an act or acts of malpractice, gross negligence or
39 incompetence in the practice of dietetics/nutrition;

40 (3) Practicing as a licensed dietitian/nutritionist without a current license;

41 (4) Engaging in conduct that could result in harm or injury to the public;

42 (5) Conviction of or a plea of guilty or **nolo contendere** to any crime
43 involving moral turpitude;

- 1 (6) Adjudication of insanity or incompetency, until proof of recovery from
2 the condition can be established;
3 (7) Engaging in any act or practice violative of any of the provisions of
4 this Chapter or any rule or regulation adopted by the Board hereunder,
5 or aiding, abetting or assisting any person in such a violation.

6 (b) Such denial, refusal to renew, suspension, revocation or imposition of
7 probationary conditions upon a license may be ordered by the Board after a hearing held
8 in accordance with Chapter 150B and rules adopted by the Board. An application may
9 be made to the Board for reinstatement of a revoked license if the revocation has been in
10 effect for at least one year.

11 **"§ 90D-15. Fees.**

12 The Board shall adopt and publish, in the manner established by its rules and
13 regulations, fees reasonably necessary to cover the cost of services rendered for the
14 following purposes:

- 15 (1) For an initial application, a fee not to exceed twenty-five dollars
16 (\$25.00);
17 (2) For examination or reexamination, a fee not to exceed one hundred
18 fifty dollars (\$150.00);
19 (3) For issuance of a license, a fee not to exceed one hundred dollars
20 (\$100.00);
21 (4) For the renewal of a license, a fee not to exceed fifty dollars (\$50.00);
22 (5) For the late renewal of a license, an additional late fee not to exceed
23 fifty dollars (\$50.00);
24 (6) For a provisional license, a fee not to exceed thirty-five dollars
25 (\$35.00); and
26 (7) For copies of Board rules and licensure standards, charges not
27 exceeding the actual cost of printing and mailing.

28 **"§ 90D-16. Requirement of license.**

29 After March 31, 1990, it shall be unlawful for any person who is not currently
30 licensed under this Chapter to engage in the practice of dietetics/nutrition or use the title
31 'dietitian/nutritionist' or use the words 'dietitian' or 'nutritionist' or 'licensed
32 dietitian/nutritionist' alone or in combination, or use the letters 'LD', 'LN', 'LDN', or
33 any facsimile or combination in any words, letters, abbreviations, or insignia or to
34 indicate or imply orally or in writing or in any way that the person is a licensed
35 dietitian/nutritionist.

36 **"§ 90D-17. Violation a misdemeanor.**

37 Any person who violates any provision of this Chapter shall be guilty of a
38 misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined or imprisoned, or both, in the
39 discretion of the court. Each act of such unlawful practice shall constitute a distinct and
40 separate offense.

41 **"§ 90D-18. Injunctions.**

42 The Board may make application to any appropriate court for an order enjoining
43 violations of this Chapter, and upon a showing by the Board that any person has

1 violated or is about to violate this Chapter, the court may grant an injunction, restraining
2 order, or take other appropriate action.

3 **"§ 90D-19. Persons and practices not affected.**

4 The requirements of this Chapter shall not apply to:

- 5 (1) A health care professional licensed under the laws of this State who
6 engages in the practice of dietetics/nutrition when it is incidental to the
7 practice of his or her profession.
- 8 (2) A student or trainee, working under the direct supervision of a licensed
9 dietitian/nutritionist while fulfilling an experience requirement or
10 pursuing a course of study to meet requirements for licensure, for a
11 limited period of time as determined by the Board.
- 12 (3) A dietitian/nutritionist serving in the Armed Forces or the Public
13 Health Service of the United States or employed by the Veterans
14 Administration when performing duties associated with that service or
15 employment.
- 16 (4) A person aiding the practice of dietetics/nutrition if the person works
17 under the direct supervision of a licensed dietitian/nutritionist and
18 performs only support activities that do not require formal academic
19 training in the basic food, nutrition, chemical, biological, behavioral,
20 and social sciences that are used in the practice of dietetics.
- 21 (5) A person employed by the State or any local governmental bodies at
22 the time of passage of this act when acting within the scope of that
23 employment. Provided, however, if that person assumes new duties,
24 assumes a new position, or engages in the practice of dietetics/nutrition
25 in this State not within the scope of those governmental duties, he or
26 she must be licensed.
- 27 (6) A person who does not hold himself out to be a dietitian or nutritionist
28 when such person furnishes general nutrition information on food,
29 food materials, or dietary supplements; and this Chapter does not
30 prevent any such person from engaging in the explanation to
31 customers about foods or food products in connection with the
32 marketing and distribution of those products.
- 33 (7) A person who provides weight control services; provided the program
34 has been reviewed by, consultation is available from, and no program
35 change can be initiated without prior approval of:
- 36 a. A licensed dietitian/nutritionist;
37 b. A dietitian/nutritionist licensed in another state that has
38 licensure requirements that are at least as stringent as under this
39 Chapter; or
40 c. A dietitian registered by the Commission on Dietetic
41 Registration of the American Dietetic Association.
- 42 (8) Employees or independent contractors of a hospital (which does not
43 have a licensed dietitian/nutritionist in its employ or under contract)
44 who engage in the practice of dietetics/nutrition with patients of such

1 hospital, provided the hospital is making a good faith effort to employ
2 or contract with a licensed dietitian/nutritionist. The Board shall
3 provide upon request to such hospital a list of licensed
4 dietitians/nutritionists willing to relocate or provide services to the
5 hospital on a temporary basis."

6 Sec. 2. G.S. 120-123 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

7 "(50a) The North Carolina Board of Dietetics/Nutrition as created by G.S. 90D-4."

8 Sec. 3. This act shall become effective October 1, 1989.