

Agency #016.06

**Rules for the
Arkansas Long Term Care Facility
Nursing Assistant Training Program**

Arkansas Department of Human Services

~~Division of Medical Services~~

~~Office of Long Term Care~~

**Division of Provider Services and
Quality Assurance**

1992

**(Revised ~~June 01,~~
2022 January 1, 2023)**

Table of Contents

SECTION I - AUTHORITY.....	3
SECTION II - PURPOSE	4
SECTION III - DEFINITIONS	5
SECTION IV - NURSING ASSISTANT TRAINING	8
A. Training.....	8
B. Implementation Requirements	9
C. Nursing Assistant Trainee Activities	10
D. Classroom Facilities & Resources	10
E. Orientation Program.....	11
SECTION V - APPROVAL OF PROGRAMS	12
A. Location.....	12
B. Restrictions	12
C. Application.....	13
D. Changes in Programs.....	14
E. Withdrawal of Approval.....	14
SECTION VI - QUALIFICATIONS OF INSTRUCTORS.....	15
A. Primary Instructor (PI)	15
B. Primary Instructor Responsibilities	15
C. Additional Instructor/Guest Speaker	16
SECTION VII - REQUIREMENTS FOR TESTING AND CERTIFICATION	17
A. Transition	17
B. Examination	18
C. Test Dates, Locations, and Fees	19
D. Candidate Qualifications.....	20
ARKANSAS CODE §17-4-106 CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT LICENSURES OF UNIFORMED SERVICE MEMBERS, VETERANS, AND SPOUSES ...	21
SECTION VIII - CNA DIRECTORY	23
A. Function and Content	23
B. Inter-state (Reciprocity) Transfer	23
SECTION IX - METHODOLOGY FOR REVIEW OF COMPLIANCE WITH PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS	24
A. Monitoring	24
B. Minimum Program Standards.....	24
SECTION X - REIMBURSEMENTS.....	26
A. General Provisions	26
B. Allowable Costs.....	27
C. Claims Submission	28
D. Maximum Cost Limit.....	29
E. Cost Reporting and Record Retention	29
F. Nursing Assistant Training Cost Reimbursement Claim Form.....	29

Section I

AUTHORITY

1. The following rules for the ~~Long-Long~~-Term Care Facility Nursing Assistant Training Program are duly adopted and promulgated by the Department of Human Services pursuant to Arkansas Code 20-10-701 et seq.
2. This initiative is pursuant to the Federal mandates of Public Law 100-203 (the Nursing Home Reform Act, Subtitle C of the Omnibus Budget and Reconciliation Act of 1987 and technical amendments of OBRA 1989 and 1990) concerning the training and competency ~~evaluation-examination~~ of nursing assistants employed in long term care facilities and the registry of certified nursing assistants.
3. The Federal Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987, 1989, ~~and~~ 1990, and 1993-(OBRA) and regulations issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (formerly Health Care Financing Administration, or HCFA) established the minimum requirements for nursing assistant training and competency evaluation programs in Section 1819(a) - (f) and 1919(a) - (f) of the Social Security Act.

Section II

PURPOSE

1. To develop and approve training and competency evaluation programs for individuals who provide nursing or nursing-related services to residents in long term care facilities and who are not licensed health professionals or volunteers who provide services without monetary compensations.

2. These requirements are designed to assist long term care facilities and other educational institutions with training and competency programs for nursing assistants. The objective of the Nursing Assistant Training Program is the provision of quality services to residents by nursing assistants who are able to:

- (a) ~~P~~perform ~~uncomplicated Certified nursing-aide nursing procedures skills~~ and to assist licensed practical nurses or registered nurses in direct resident care;
- (b) ~~F~~form a relationship, communicate and interact competently on a one-to-one basis with the residents as part of the team implementing resident care objectives;
- (c) ~~D~~emonstrate sensitivity to residents' emotional, social, and mental health needs through skillful, directed interactions;
- (d) ~~A~~assist residents in attaining and maintaining functional independence;
- (e) ~~E~~xhibit behavior in support and promotion of residents' rights;
- (f) ~~D~~emonstrate observational and documenting skills needed in support of the assessment of residents' health, physical condition and well-being.

3. The training program must teach skills to enhance knowledge in promoting healthy functioning of residents both physically and emotionally and focus on the restoration and maintenance of the resident. These attitudes and behaviors of staff must be demonstrated in the facility on a day-to-day basis

~~3. The training program must teach the attitudes and behaviors (which reflect attitudes) skills to enhance knowledge in which promoting e the healthy functioning of residents both physically and emotionally, and emotionally and focus on the restoration and maintenance of the resident, in an independent as possible status. These attitudes and behaviors of staff are demonstrable must be demonstrated in the facility on a day to day basis. day to day care environment in the facility.~~

Section III

DEFINITIONS

The following words and terms, when used in this section, shall have the following meaning, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

- Abuse - The willful, knowing, or reckless act of mistreatment of a resident through words or physical action which results in physical, emotional, or mental injury to a resident.
- Act - Public Law 100-203 (the Federal Nursing Home Reform Act, Subtitle C of the Omnibus Budget and Reconciliation Act) of 1987 and technical amendments of OBRA 1989 and 1990. ~~Also~~Also, may refer to Arkansas Code 20-10-701 et seq.
- Additional Instructor - A RN or LPN who, under the general supervision of the Primary Instructor, may provide classroom and skills training.
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) - a federal agency that oversees programs including Medicare, Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and the state and federal health insurance marketplaces.
- Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) - Individuals trained and certified to help nurses by providing non-medical assistance to patients, such as help with bathing, dressing, and using the bathroom.
- Competency ~~Evaluation~~Examination - An examination that includes manual (skills) and written (or oral component for those with limited literacy skills) evaluations.
- Department - The Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS).
- Division - The Division of ~~Medical Services~~Provider Services and Quality Assurance within the Department of Human Services.
- Educational Institution - An institution that is licensed by the Arkansas State Board of Private Career Education within the Arkansas Division of Higher Education as defined by Act 906 of 1989 (~~i.e.~~i.e., career colleges, proprietary school, ~~etc~~).
- Examination - (~~See competency evaluation~~) A competency ~~evaluation~~examination that includes manual (skills) and written evaluations.
- Facility - A long term care facility/nursing facility (nursing home) licensed by the Office of Long-Term Care. A nursing facility that provides nursing care and supportive care on a twenty-four (24)-hour basis to residents. Facility "premises" include all structures and surrounding property.
- Facility Based Program - A nursing assistant training program offered by or in a

~~long-term~~long-term care facility.

- General Nursing Experience – Experience which may include, without limitation, employment in a nursing assistant education program or employment in or supervision of nursing students in a long-term care facility or unit, geriatrics department excluding a geriatric psychiatry department, long-term acute care hospital, home healthcare, hospice care, or other long-term care setting. (Arkansas Code Ann. §20.10.702 (2)(C)(ii).
- Guest Speaker – A registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, or other licensed health professionals who conduct specific classroom lectures based upon an expertise in a given subject area, under the direct supervision of the Primary Instructor.
- Instructor Training Program - A train-the-trainer program of instruction in educational teaching techniques and methods for Primary Instructors and Team Instructors approved by the Office of ~~Long-Term~~Long-Term Care.
- Licensed Health Professional - A physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, physical, speech, or occupational therapist, physical or occupational assistant, registered professional nurse, licensed practical nurse, or certified social worker.
- Misappropriation of resident property - The taking, secretion, misapplication, deprivation, transfer, or attempted transfer to any person not entitled to receive any property, real or personal, or anything of value belonging to or under the effective control of a resident or other appropriate legal authority, or the taking of any action contrary to any duty imposed by law prescribing conduct relating to the custody or disposition of property of a resident.
- Neglect - An act of omission or an act without due care which causes physical or emotional harm to a resident or adversely affects the resident's health, safety, or welfare in any way.
- Non-~~facility-based~~facility-based program - A nursing assistant training program not offered by or in a facility (i.e., career college, community college, Vo-Tech school, proprietary school, etc.)
- Nursing Assistant - An unlicensed nursing staff member who assists with basic patient care (such as giving baths, checking vital signs, bed-making, and positioning) ~~individual providing nursing or nursing-related services~~ to residents in a long-term care facility who has successfully completed a training and/or competency evaluation program and is competent to provide such services but not an individual who is a licensed health professional or who volunteers to provide such services without monetary compensation.
- Orientation Program - A program which provides the nursing assistant with

explanations of facility structure, policies, procedures, philosophy of care, description of the resident population and employee rules. This orientation phase is not included as part of the Nursing Assistant Training Program.

- Task Performance Record - A list of the major duties/skills to be learned in the program and the trainee's performance of each.
- Petitioner - A person who appeals a finding that such person has, while acting as a nursing assistant in a facility or while being used by a facility in providing services to a resident, abused or neglected a resident, or has misappropriated a resident's property.
- ~~Primary Instructor (PI) - An individual approved by the Office of Long Term Care to provide instruction in a program and who has overall responsibility for conducting a program. An individual who is a registered nurse licensed in this state to practice if the registered nurse moves from a state that has joined the Interstate Nurse Licensure Compact, §17-87-601 et seq., to Arkansas and meets all requirements for licensure in Arkansas does not have any disciplinary action regarding his or her license by the licensing entity or authority; and possesses a minimum of two (2) years' general nursing experience as a registered nurse including at least one (1) year of long-term care nursing services in a long-term care facility setting within the last five (5) years. (Arkansas Code Ann. §20-10-702).~~
- ~~Office - Nursing Assistant Training Program The Office of Long Term Care~~ within the Division of ~~Medical Services Provider Services and Quality Assurance.~~
- Resident - ~~A patient residing in a facility. Individuals who reside in long-term care facilities that receive a range of services, including medical and personal care.~~
- ~~Skills training - Training composed of both skills demonstration in the classroom lab and skills performance in the clinical area with residents in a long-term long-term care facility.~~
- ~~Supervised Practical Training - Pursuant to 42 CFR 483.152, supervised practical training means training in a laboratory or other setting in which the trainee demonstrates knowledge while performing tasks on an individual under the direct supervision of a registered nurse or a licensed practical nurse.~~
- ~~Team (Additional) Instructor - A RN or LPN who, under the general supervision of the Primary Instructor, may provide classroom and skills training.~~
- Trainee - An individual who is enrolled in a nursing assistant training program and who is not permitted to perform nursing services for residents during the training period for which ~~he/she/they~~ have not been trained and found to be competent.

- Virtual Instruction/Training - a method of teaching that is taught either entirely online or when elements of face-to-face courses are taught online through learning management systems and other educational tools and platforms.

Mark UP

Section IV

NURSING ASSISTANT TRAINING

GENERAL RULE: A facility must not use any individual working in the facility as a nursing assistant for more than four (4) months (120 calendar days) unless that individual has successfully completed a training program and competency ~~evaluation examination~~ approved by the ~~Office of Long Term Care Department~~ as ~~described required by CMS in these rules.~~

A. Training

1. Nursing assistant training programs must include materials that provide a basic level of both knowledge and demonstrable skills for each individual completing the program.
2. Each course must be prepared and administered in accordance with the training course guidelines prescribed in the "Arkansas LTCF Nursing Assistant Training Curriculum". This curriculum is to be used as a guide for conducting in-person or virtual training in both facility and non-facility programs.
3. These guidelines essentially provide the outline for ~~each in-person and virtual~~ training programs and can be enhanced by the inclusion of current information to keep training relevant to changing needs. The content provides fundamental information and leaves open the opportunity for an instructor to function as necessary in response to perceived student requirements. **It is important to recognize that the curriculum guidelines identify the limitations (i.e., scope of practice) of the LTCF nursing assistants' direct care responsibilities.**
4. Each in-person/virtual training program must use the behavioral stated objectives in the "Arkansas LTCF Nursing Assistant Training Curriculum" for each unit of instruction. These objectives state the measurable performance criteria that serve as the basis for the state competency ~~evaluation examination test~~. The instructor shall conduct a review of each unit objective with trainees at the beginning of each unit so that each trainee knows what is expected of ~~him/her/them~~ in each part of the training program.
5. Upon successful completion of the required in-person/virtual training, the trainee must pass the state competency ~~evaluation~~/examination administered by the Department (see Section VII). An individual must complete the state competency examination within twelve (12) months of graduation from a training program or retraining will be required.

B. Implementation Requirements

- 1. Pursuant to 42 CFR § 483.152, a nurse aide training and competency examination program must include, at a minimum,

~~Each course shall consist of~~ a combination of classroom (in-person/virtual) and clinical instruction. The requirement for state certification ~~will shall include be~~ a minimum of ninety (90) hours of training which consist of no less than seventy-four (74) clock hours of training, including sixteen (16) hours of supervised practical training, for a total of ninety (90) hours, with a balance between theory instruction and skills training. Skills training is composed of both skills demonstration in the classroom lab and skills performance in the clinical area with residents in a long term care facility.

~~1.~~ 2. The clinical site must be a ~~long term~~long-term care facility, skilled nursing unit or rehabilitation unit located in an acute care facility or inpatient hospice unit which has not been disqualified by restrictions as described in Section V (B).

~~2.~~ 3. A minimum of sixteen (16) hours initial classroom (in-person/virtual) instruction is required in Part I. This will include both theory instruction and skills demonstration in the classroom lab. During Part I, the trainee is not allowed on the floor as part of a facility's staffing pattern. After completion of Part I, a trainee may be used in a facility's staffing pattern **but only assigned to duties for which they have demonstrated competency**. Documentation of acceptable performance of all skills and duties shall be on file with the Primary Instructor (see item C — Nursing Assistant Trainee Activities).

~~3.~~ 4. Parts II and III require the completion of the remaining seventy-four (74)-clock hours of training consisting of theory, classroom lab and clinical skills training. Clinical skills training must include at least sixteen (16) hours of supervised practical training in a facility performing tasks on an individual under the direct supervision of the instructor. ~~Supervised practical training is defined as training in a laboratory or other setting in which the trainee demonstrates knowledge while performing tasks on an individual under the direct supervision of a registered or licensed practical nurse. Clinical training or supervision shall not be performed using the “buddy” system of assigning the trainee to work with an experienced nursing assistant. Clinical skills training assignment or supervision by another nursing assistant is prohibited.~~

4. 5. The ratio of trainees to instructors in ~~the in-person/virtual~~ classroom must not exceed twenty-four (24) trainees to one (1) instructor (primary or additional instructor) and the ratio for skills training must not exceed twelve (12) trainees to one instructor.

~~5.~~ 6. For facility-based programs that wish to use student trainees in staffing while in training following completion of Part I, a minimum of ten (10) hours per

week must be spent in the training program until completed. This provides for the completion of the training program allowing time for students to challenge and successfully pass the competency evaluation test within the four (4) month (120 calendar days) limit. Staff in training can be employed after completing lessons one (1) — eleven (11) (sixteen (16) hours of course work) and may continue to work on the floor while they are actively progressing through a NATP; however, they cannot be included in staffing ratio if they are actively participating in class instruction.

6. 7. Each program shall issue a written statement to each trainee, upon successful completion of the program, ~~a written statement~~ in the form of a certificate of completion, which shall include the program's name, NATP license number, the student's name and a numerical identifier such as a ~~D~~river's ~~L~~icense ~~N~~umber or identification number from a valid government issued document that contains a current photo (such as state or national ~~issued~~ ID card, alien registration card, military identification or passport ~~);~~); the begin date and end date; ~~of completion~~ and the signature of the Primary Instructor upon successful completion of the program. Such certificate, or copies thereof, shall serve as evidence of successful completion of a training program ~~in order to~~ to be eligible to take the state ~~certification/competency test examination~~.

C. Nursing Assistant Trainee Activities

1. Each trainee shall ~~be clearly identified wear identification~~ during all skills training portions that identifies them as a trainee. Identification must be ~~recognizable to~~ visible to residents, family members, visitors, and staff.

2. A nursing assistant who has begun a training program, ~~whether facility-based or not~~, and ~~who~~ has not completed the program, may be hired by a facility to provide care for which he/she/they has have received training and ~~has~~ demonstrated competence. ~~In other words,~~ Nnursing assistants are not permitted to perform services for residents during the training period for which they have not been trained and found by the training program to be competent.

3. Documentation of each trainee's acceptable performance of each skill/procedure must be maintained by the Primary Instructor on the Task Performance Record (DMS-741 form) provided by the Department (~~Form DMS-741~~). This record ~~will consist~~ of the following:

- ~~a listing of the~~ Tasks performed which includes duties and ~~/skills completed expected to be learned in the program,~~
~~space to record when the trainee performs this duty/skill,~~
- Satisfactory performance date; and
- 3. ~~spaces to note satisfactory or unsatisfactory performance,~~
~~and the~~ The instructor's signature of the instructor
supervising the performance.

4. A program must terminate a trainee when provided with substantial

evidence or a determination that the trainee is guilty of resident neglect or abuse or misappropriation of resident property. The program shall establish procedures for a review of the allegations when requested by the trainee. The program shall inform the Department of any trainees terminated under these circumstances.

D. In person/Virtual Classroom Facilities & Resources

1. In Person:

1. a. The nursing assistant training program shall require the provision of physical facilities as follows:

- ~~Comfortable temperatures.~~ Temperatures conducive to the weather;
 - Clean and safe conditions;
 - Adequate Lighting;
 - ~~Adequate s~~ Space to accommodate all students; and
 - ~~All e~~ Equipment needed, for simulating resident care and classroom/lecture (See Instructional Equipment under Section X). including audio-visual equipment and that needed for simulating resident care.
2. b. The physical facilities including classrooms, laboratories, conference space, library, and educational materials shall be adequate to meet the needs of the program, the number of trainees, and the instructional staff.

2. Virtual:

See the virtual methodology section.

3. Suggested training material/resources may include, ~~(but is not be limited to)~~ a blackboard, flipchart, projector/screen, ~~DVD-VCR, interactive video-machine~~, anatomical chart, mannequin, bed, lavatory/sink, etc.

3. The Department will not require or endorse any one textbook or other material such as ~~video-tapes~~ videotapes, films, etc. There are several resources ~~textbooks, video-tapes, etc.~~ on the market and each facility or school will have the choice in selecting their materials. The curriculum guide is to be used so in ~~identifying the information to be taught in order that~~ each program will know the objectives and procedures expected to be communicated to the nursing assistant trainee ~~in order for the trainee~~ them to pass the state competency ~~evaluation~~ examination.

4. ———

E. Orientation Program

1. All nursing assistants must receive an orientation program that includes, but is not limited to, an explanation of:
 - The organizational structure of the facility;
 - Policies and procedures (including fire/disaster plans, etc.)
 - The philosophy of care of the facility;
 - The description of the resident population; and
 - Employee rules.
2. This facility orientation training program is not included in the required ninety (90) hours of nursing assistant training.

F. Ongoing In-Service Training

1. All facilities will continue to provide ongoing in-service training on a routine basis both in groups and as necessary in specific situations on a one-to-one basis. Each nursing assistant must receive one (1) hour of in-service training per month.
2. The facility must complete a performance review of each nursing assistant at least once per year and provide regular in-service training based on the outcome of these reviews. The in-service training should address areas of weakness and be sufficient to ensure the continuing competence of the nursing assistants.
3. In addition to training needs identified by performance reviews, in-service training should also address the special needs of residents as determined by each facility. Training can be received on the unit as long as it is directed toward skills improvement, provided by appropriately trained staff, and documented (for example, skills demonstration with return demonstration recorded on a check list).
4. Effective July 1, 2006, facilities are strongly encouraged to offer in-service training for nursing-home-employed CNAs who were certified in Arkansas prior to July 1, ~~2006~~2006, that covers the Barbara Broyles Alzheimer and Dementia Training that is included in Arkansas LTCF Nursing Assistant Training Curriculum. Facilities should maintain records that verify each employed CNA, who was certified in Arkansas prior to July 1, 2006, has received this training. After July 1, ~~2006~~2006, and ongoing, the new Alzheimer's training is strongly encouraged for CNAs registered in Arkansas through reciprocity from other states and test candidates that are allowed to challenge the State competency test based on exemptions found in Section VII (D) (~~three (3)~~ through six (6)).

G. Non-Permanent Employees

1. Nursing assistants who are employed/leased through a temporary hiring service must have completed an approved training program and passed the state competency evaluation test prior to employment and use by a facility.

Section V

APPROVAL OF PROGRAMS

A. Location

1. Nursing assistant training programs may be offered by or in nursing facilities, as well as outside facilities. The clinical portion of the training must be conducted in all cases and must utilize a nursing facility and its residents. Nursing facilities may offer a complete training program ~~themselves~~ and/or may contract with another organization to provide the ~~training, unless training unless they are sanctioned. Sanctioned nursing facilities cannot offer the training.-~~
2. Other groups and/or institutions such as employee organizations, vocational/technical schools, community colleges, and private institutions may conduct programs, ~~dependent~~ upon the Department's approval.
3. Programs offered to the public and ~~that charge~~ charging a tuition fee must submit an application and be approved by the Department before they can be licensed through the State Board of Private Career Education. This provision would not apply to the state schools (Vo-Tech, community colleges, etc.) or programs offered by ~~nursing long-term care~~ facilities who train their own employees (or potential "on-call" employees).

B. Restrictions

1. The Department shall not approve a program offered by or in a nursing facility which, in the previous two years, has done the following:
 - (A) ~~has o~~ perated under a waiver of the nurse staffing requirements in excess of forty-eight (48) hours during the week;
 - (B) ~~has been s~~ been s ubjected to an extended ~~(or partial extended)*~~ survey ~~*or partially extended survey*~~; or
 - (C) ~~has been s~~ been s ubjected to a civil money penalty of ~~not~~ less than \$5,000, denial of payment for new admissions, appointment of temporary management, closure, or transfer of residents.
- * Extended survey is defined for this provision as a survey which includes a review of facility policy and procedures pertinent to Level A deficiencies in Resident Rights, Resident Behavior and Facility Practices, Quality of Life, or Quality of Care.
- * Partial extended survey is defined as a survey conducted as a result of a deficiency in Level A requirements other than those listed above in the extended survey definition.

2. Facility-based training programs are prohibited from charging tuitions/training fees to their nursing assistant employees ~~(or those who have received an offer of employment)~~ for any portion of the program ~~(including any fees for textbooks or other required course materials)~~. ~~(See Reimbursements under Section X).~~ regarding reimbursements.

C. Application

1. Each facility or entity that desires to offer a program shall file an Application for Program Approval form prescribed by the Department (Form DMS-724). Application forms are available on the DHS DPSQA website or you can request an application by calling the Nursing Assistant Training Program at 501-320-6276 emailing: natpcertification@dhs.arkansas.gov and on the Office of Long Term Care website.

2. ~~If the course to be offered differs in content or length from the guidelines prescribed in the "Arkansas LTCF Nursing Assistant Training Curriculum", a basic-~~An outline must be attached to the application showing the lesson plans ~~and teaching modules the program will offer utilized~~ to cover the curriculum contents. This should specify the elements covered in each module, hours of classroom theory, hours of lab (return demonstrations), and hours in the clinical area in a nursing home. Each facility's application must also include the following: Additional information deemed important in consideration of the program may be requested by the Department.

- a. PI Resumes/work history to establish LTC experience;
- b. AI resume/work history to establish LTC experience;
- c. Waiver letter from the Department if utilizing a sanctioned LTCF;
- d. Professional license verification; and
- e. Additional information, as requested by the Department.

3. ~~If~~When applicable for renewals, verification of school licensure by the Arkansas State Board of Private Career Education within the Arkansas Division of Higher Education (ADHE) will be required (~~s~~See item A of this section). A notarized copy of the school licensure ~~document~~ must be included with applications for new programs and for renewal of programs. ~~Verification of n~~Notification to the State Board of Private Career Education ADHE for verifying additional instructors and/or changes in instructors ~~shall~~ will be required with each application.

4. Application must be submitted to the Department and approved by the Department prior to the start of the first course. ~~eight weeks (56 calendar days) prior to the start of the first course and every two years thereafter. An application must be completed and signed by the Primary Instructor. All official application forms must be notarized.~~

4.5. An application must be completed and signed by the Primary Instructor.

~~5.6.~~ Applications that are received incomplete may cause postponement of the program starting date. A notice of deficiency in the application will be mailed to an applicant within fifteen (15) business days of the date of filing. The applicant will be given an opportunity to correct any deficiencies.

~~6.7.~~ Notice of approval or disapproval of the application will be given to the entity within fifteen (15) business days of the receipt of a complete application. If the application is to be disapproved, the reasons for disapproval shall be given in the notice.

~~7.8.~~ An applicant may request a review hearing on a disapproval in writing within ten (10) business days of receipt of the notice of the proposed disapproval to the Division Director. If no request is made, the entity is deemed to have waived the opportunity for a hearing.

D. Changes in Programs

1. Prior to major changes in the course, an application must be resubmitted for approval.
2. Major changes include, but are not limited to:
 - Change in training provider
 - Change in classroom delivery site (i.e.i.e., classroom to virtual);
 - Change in clinical site
 - Change in instructor; and
 - Complete revision of course structure, including change in hours allotted to one (1) or more modules.
3. Major changes do NOT include:
 - Change in materials (handouts, textbooks, videos, etc.)
 - ~~Change in hours allotted to one or more modules~~
 - Change in order in which modules are taught
 - Addition of modules/tasks not required by rules or guidelines

E. Withdrawal of Approval

1. Provisions for monitoring and review of compliance with program requirements are specified in ~~Section IX~~ of these rules. The Department shall withdraw approval of a training program when;
 - (a) The program has One (1) or more restrictions; exist as listed in Section V(B).
 - (b) The entity offering the program refuses to permit visits by the Department, whether announced or unannounced. ~~(Also, a~~Any facility that refuses to permit

unannounced visits is subject to having its provider agreement terminated;→

(c) ~~The program's~~ Curriculum and implementation requirements specified in these rules are not met by the program;→

(d) ~~The program has~~ An excessive failure ~~pass-rate exists~~ for trainees on the state competency evaluation test over a three (3) year period and after opportunities to address the failure rate through enhanced monitoring.:-

(e) ~~—The program:~~

(e) ~~Renewal is not completed prior to renewal date. NATP approval will be suspended until renewal – is completed and approved;~~

(a)(f) ~~Purposely The program~~ makes or causes to be made any false statement or representation of a material fact used in determining rights or any application for payment by any entity for reimbursement of training costs as allowed in Section X of these rules;

~~(b) — Purposely makes or causes to be made any false statement or representation of a material fact for use in determining rights to payment to any entity for training costs as allowed in Section X of these rules;~~

(e)(g) ~~Purposely The program~~ makes or causes to be made any false statement or representation that training was provided when training was not provided;

(d)(h) ~~Purposely The program~~ makes or causes to be made, or induces or seeks to induce the making of, any false statement or representation of a material fact with respect to the conditions or operation of the program in order ~~that for~~ the program ~~may to~~ qualify either upon initial approval or re-approval;

(e)(i) ~~Purposely The program~~ makes or causes to be made any false statement or representation that the amount of training costs ~~is are~~ greater than the actual cost of the training to obtain Medicaid reimbursement, as allowed in Section X of these rules, that exceeds the actual cost of training; ~~or;~~

~~Purposely The program~~ makes or causes to be made any false statement or representation of a material fact in violation of these rules;→ or

(j) ~~—~~

(k) ~~—~~
2. ~~When the Department withdraws approval from a training program, it shall:~~

(a) ~~— Notify the program in writing, indicating the reason (or reasons) for withdrawal of approval;~~

Permit students who have already started the program to finish it.

~~(k)~~ The State determines that any of the applicable requirements of §483.152 or §483.154 are not met by the program.

2. When the State withdraws approval of a nurse aide training and competency evaluation program or competency evaluation program:

(a) The State must notify the program in writing, indicating the reason(s) for withdrawal of approval of the program; and

(b) Students who have started a training and competency evaluation program from which approval has been withdrawn must be allowed to complete the course.

3. The program may file for a reconsideration of the withdrawal of approval of a nurse aide training and competency evaluation program within ten (10) business days of the notification. The reconsideration shall be forwarded to the Director of the division.

Section VI

QUALIFICATIONS OF INSTRUCTORS

A. Primary Instructor (PI)

1. The Primary Instructor shall ~~be~~:

~~— Be a Registered Nurse currently licensed in Arkansas and or licensed under a compact license; or holding a multistate privilege to practice if the registered nurse moves from a state that has joined the Interstate Nurse Licensure Compact, § 17-87-601 et seq., to Arkansas and meets all requirements for licensure in Arkansas; shall~~

~~(a) (b) Not be subject to under any current~~ disciplinary action by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing. Disciplinary action includes, but is not limited to: probation, suspension, revocation or voluntary surrender of license due to disciplinary action;

~~— (e) Possess a minimum of two (2) years' general nursing experience as a registered nurse including at least one (1) year of long-term care nursing services in a nursing facility setting within the last five (5) years. (Ark. Code Ann. § 20-10-702).~~

~~(d)~~

~~(b) -~~

~~i. Nursing experience may include, but is not limited to, employment in:~~

~~(a) a Nursing Assistant Education Program;~~

~~(b) a long-term care facility, or the supervisor of nursing students in a long-term care facility or unit;~~

~~(c) a geriatrics department (excluding geriatric psychiatry); or~~

~~(d) a long-term acute care hospital (recuperative care), home care, hospice care, or other long-term care setting.~~

1. _____.

~~2. The Primary Instructor must possess a minimum of two (2) years nursing experience including at least one (1) year of long term care nursing services within the last five (5) years. Experience may include, but is not limited to, employment in a nursing assistant education program or employment in or supervision of nursing students in a nursing facility or unit, geriatrics department (excluding geriatric psychiatry), long-term acute care hospital, home care, hospice care or other long term care setting.~~

~~3.2.~~ _____ In a facility-based program, the training of nursing assistants may be performed under the general supervision of the Director of Nursing (DON), who is prohibited from performing the actual training (unless replacement DON coverage is provided).

~~4.3.~~ _____ An individual who will be the Primary Instructor and meets the above criteria ~~may~~ must submit the Application for Program Approval (Form DMS-

724) to identify~~ing~~ their teaching qualifications ~~to teach~~. This must include nursing experience, supervisory experience, teaching experience and/or certificate of attendance in an instructor workshop.

B. Primary Instructor Responsibilities

1. ~~There must be one, and only one, Primary~~ There must be one (1) and only Primary Instructor (PI). A Primary Instructor may oversee ~~for each a maximum of four sites. course.~~ All questions and correspondence ~~referring-~~ pertaining to the ~~course site~~ will be directed to the this person PI. The PI ~~should-~~ shall participate in the planning of each lesson/teaching module including clinical instruction –whether or not the PI teaches the lesson.

~~4.~~ <https://codes.findlaw.com/ar/title-20-public-health-and-welfare/ar-code-sect-20-10-705.html>

2. The ~~Primary Instructor~~PI of a nursing assistant training program shall be responsible for supervision of the program and ensuring that the following requirements are met:

(a) Course objectives are accomplished.

~~(b) Only persons having~~Each trainee exhibits the appropriate skills and knowledge ~~are selected~~ to conduct any part of the training.

~~(b)(c) That~~ Each instructor ~~shall bise~~ monitored and evaluated during in the classroom, learning laboratory and clinical training whenever they are teaching an assignment or introducing material for the first time and at periodic intervals. ~~new material is being taught and at periodic intervals to include, but not limited to, first training calls, following any complaint on a specific instructor and at least annually.~~ Performance reviews of instructors must be documented and maintained.

~~(e)(d)~~ The provision of direct individual care to assigned residents by a trainee is limited to appropriately supervised clinical experience. Instructors, ~~not unit or facility staff, are expected to function~~ shall serve as supervisor of trainees while in clinical areas and providing resident care.

~~(d)(e)~~ Each trainee shall demonstrate competence in clinical skills and fundamental principles of resident care. The task performance record ~~(skills check-off)~~ must be approved and signed or initialed by the ~~Primary Instructor PI~~ who must sign or initial all final skills check-off records.

~~(e)(f)~~ Records are kept to ~~verify~~ the participation and performance of each trainee in each phase of the training program. ~~The s~~Satisfactory completion of the training program ~~by each trainee~~ shall be attested on each trainee's record.

~~(f)(g)~~ Each trainee is issued a certificate of completion within ten (10) calendar days of course completion and as described in Section IV (B) ~~(76)~~ of these rules.

Mark-Up

C. ~~Additional Instructors~~/Trainers Guest Speaker

~~1.~~ Instructors may use other qualified resource personnel from the health field as guest instructors or speakers in the program to meet the objectives for a specific unit. Examples are pharmacists, dietitians, social workers, sanitarians, advocates, gerontologists, nursing home administrators, nurse aid program staff, etc. Guest instructors must have a minimum of one (1) year of experience in their respective fields and must not have current disciplinary action by their respective regulatory board.

~~2.~~ Additional Instructors such as Registered Nurse (RN) or Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN's) may be used to provide ~~classroom instruction, and~~ skills training and or supervision. They must be under the general supervision of the Primary Instructor, currently licensed in Arkansas and shall not be subject to any current disciplinary action by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing. Disciplinary action includes, but is not limited to: probation, suspension, revocation or voluntary surrender of license due to disciplinary action and have a minimum of one (1) year of ~~long-term~~long-term care experience. ~~(All final skills check-off reviews must be approved by the Primary Instructor.)~~

3. The Application of Program Approval (Form DMS-724) shall be used to identify each additional instructor/guest speaker ~~trainer~~ and their qualifications to teach.

Section VII

REQUIREMENTS FOR EXAMINATION AND CERTIFICATION

A. Transition

The initial implementation of these training and examination requirements have covered three basic phases:

1. Deemed Equivalence Waivers -

A nursing assistant shall be deemed to have satisfied the requirement of completing a training and competency examination program approved by the State if the nursing assistant:

- a. Completed a program that offered a minimum of sixty (60) hours of nursing assistant training before July 1, 1989₂ and if such received before July 1, 1989₂ up to fifteen (15) hours of supervised and practical nursing assistant training or regular in-service nursing assistant education (initial training must be at least seventy-~~five~~ four (754) hours of classroom instruction, as well as sixteen (16) hours of supervised practical training; a total of ninety (90) hours);
- b. Completed a course of at least one hundred (100) hours of nursing assistant training and was found competent (whether by the State or not) before January 1, 1989; or
- c. Has served as a nursing assistant at one (1) or more facilities of the same employer in the State for at least twenty-four (24) consecutive months before December 19, 1989.

Individuals will not qualify for these waivers if they have not provided nursing or nursing-related services for a period of twenty-four (24) months or longer since completing training. They will be required to complete a new training program and state examination to obtain current certification.

Facilities who wish to obtain certification for the above-described individuals should submit to the Department ~~Form DMS-798~~, Interstate Transfer Form (DMS-798), with attached copies of documents and/or certificates verifying course completion, and the number of hours in ~~the~~ a course.

2. Employment ~~s~~Status as of July 1, 1989 -

All individuals working as nursing assistants in Arkansas nursing facilities as of July 1, 1989, were allowed to become certified by passing the state examination but were not required to complete the "formal" seventy-four (754) hours classroom training course, as well as sixteen (16) hours of

supervised practical training; a total of ninety (90) hours.

This phase was completed by ~~October 1, 1990 and~~ October 1, 1990 and does not apply thereafter. Therefore, all individuals must now complete the ninety- (90) hour training requirements to qualify to take the state examination regardless of past employment status on July 1, 1989.

3. July 1, 1989 - Ongoing -

Effective July 1, 1989, a facility must not use any individual working in the facility as a nursing assistant for more than four (4) months (one hundred twenty (120) calendar days) unless they at individual has have successfully completed a training program and competency examination, approved by the Department, as described in these rules.

B. Examination

1. The Department or its appointed agency shall be responsible for administering the competency examination. The exam shall be based upon the training curriculum requirements specified in the LTCF Nursing Assistant Training Curriculum Guide.

2. The examination will be in English. Translation of this examination will be offered, if needed. Additional accommodations can be made by the Department or contractor based on a documented need; however, an additional fee may be required.

3. The competency examination shall consist of two (2) components, a written (or oral) exam and a skills demonstration. Each examination candidate will be allowed to choose between a written or oral exam. The oral examination will be read from a prepared text in a neutral manner.

4. Foreign language translation dictionaries must be shown to the RN Test Observer at check-in and to the Knowledge Test Proctor when entering the knowledge test room. No electronic dictionaries are allowed. No definitions or writing is allowed in the translation dictionary. If there is any writing or definitions, the translation dictionary will not be permitted to be used during testing.

4.5. The written or oral component shall be developed from a pool of examination questions. Only a portion of which are will be used in each the exam. The skills demonstration shall consist of a demonstration of five (5) randomly selected items-questions drawn from a pool of tasks ranked according to based on the level of difficulty.

5-6. The skills demonstration component will be performed in a facility (which has not been disqualified by criteria specified in Section V, item B.) or laboratory setting. similar to the setting in which the individual will function.

~~6.7.~~ The skills demonstration will be administered and evaluated by a registered nurse (RN) with at least one (1) year experience in providing care for the elderly or chronically ill. ~~of any age.~~

~~7.8.~~ The skills demonstration component may be proctored by facility or training site personnel (RNs as described above) if secure, standardized, and scored by the contractor approved by the Department. "Proctoring" will not be approved in facilities ~~subject to prohibitions prohibited as~~ specified in Section V (item B).

~~8.9.~~ To complete the competency examination successfully, an individual must pass both the written ~~(or oral)~~ examination and the skills demonstration. If an individual does not complete the examination satisfactorily, they will be advised of areas which they did not pass and their right to take the examination ~~three (3)-two (2) more~~ times.

~~9.10.~~ All candidates will be allowed up to three (3) ~~opportunities-attempts,~~ within in a twelve (12) month period, to successfully complete ~~the-all portions of the competency~~ examination. Failure after three (3) attempts will require re-training to qualify ~~to sit for the competency examination for further examination opportunities.~~ An individual has twelve (12) months to successfully pass the test after retraining. ~~maximum time limit of twelve (12) months shall be imposed on an individual to complete the examination. Verification of new re-training will be required after this 12-month limit, for further examination opportunities.~~

~~11.~~ Any trainee who is employed by any long-term care facility and fails any portion of the competency examination after three (3) attempts is ~~prohibited from providing nursing services to residents in a long-term care facility.~~

~~10.~~ Effective upon notification of examination results, any person who has failed the competency examination (either the written, oral, or skills portion) after three (3) attempts is prohibited from providing nursing services to residents in a nursing facility. However, ~~b~~Based on the program rules, these individuals may maintain their employment status if they re-enroll in a new training program. They would be required to follow the program implementation requirements of completing the first sixteen (16) hours (Part I) of training prior to direct resident contact and can only be assigned ~~to~~ job duties thereafter in which they have been ~~"checked-off"~~ deemed as competent to perform as they complete the remainder of the full ninety (90) hours of training. Upon successful completion of their training, they should be scheduled for the next available competency examination.

~~11.12.~~ All individuals who successfully complete the examination shall be placed on the CNA registry and issued a state certificate. Information on the registry shall be made available for public inquiry (see Section VIII).

C. Examination Fees, Dates, and Locations

1. The Department does not require an initial fee for this occupational license; however, there is a fee to take the state examination. The amount of the examination fee will be announced in a timely manner by the Department or designated contractor.
2. If there were to be an initial fee, per Arkansas Code Ann §17-5-104, the following individuals are not required to pay an initial fee for this license:
 - a. An individual receiving assistance through the Arkansas Medicaid Program, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program, or the Lifeline Assistance Program;
 - b. An individual who was approved for unemployment within the last twelve (12) months; or
 - c. An individual who has an income that does not exceed two hundred percent (200%) of the federal poverty income guidelines.
3. The waiver of the initial fee does not include fees for:
 - a. A criminal background check;
 - b. An examination or a test; or
 - c. A medical or drug test.
4. The examination will be given at multiple sites geographically dispersed throughout the state. Schedules of times, locations, and registration requirements will be announced in a timely manner by the Department or designated contractor.
5. ~~At the option of the NA, the~~ The competency examination (both written, oral, and skills components) may be administered in the facility at which the NA is (or will be) employed of the candidate's employment (unless the facility is disqualified by the Department under criteria specified in Section V, item B).
6. Each candidate must have appropriate verification ~~of completion~~ of the training requirements. ~~This will be in the form of a "certificate of completion" from an approved training program or other acceptable documents~~ (see item D of this section and Section IV ~~(B)~~ of these rules).
7. The Department will be responsible ~~to for~~ paying the examination fee one (1) time for individuals who are employed by a Medicaid certified long-term nursing facility or those individuals that have a commitment ("letter of intent" as defined in Section X (A) (2) of these rules) to be employed in a Medicaid certified nursing facility. Letters of intent to hire from Medicaid certified nursing facilities must be dated within twelve

(12) months immediately preceding the date of the application to take the examination. Independent examination candidates who are taking the competency examination without an employment connection to a long-term care facility will be responsible to pay their own examination fee. In accordance with 42 CFR § 483.154, no nurse aide who is employed by, or who has received an offer of employment from, a facility on the date on which the aide begins a nurse aide competency examination program may be charged for any portion of the program.

8. If an individual who is not employed, or does not have an offer to be employed, as a nurse aide becomes employed by, or receives an offer of employment from, a facility not later than twelve (12) months after completing a nurse aide training and competency examination program, the State must provide for the reimbursement of costs incurred in completing the program on a pro rata basis during the period in which the individual is employed as a nurse aide.

D. Candidate Qualifications

The following is a list ~~identifies those individuals who qualify of qualifications~~ for the state competency exam.

Note: Individuals listed on the LTCF Employment Clearance Registry, with a disqualification status due to a substantiated administrative finding of abuse, neglect, misappropriation of resident property or a disqualifying criminal record in accordance with Ark. Code Ann. § 20-38-101 et seq, shall not be eligible to take the competency examination.

1. Nursing assistants who were trained in **approved** non-facility programs (for example: career colleges, Vo-Tech schools, or proprietary schools) after January 1, 1989.
2. Nursing assistants who were trained in **approved** facility (nursing homes) programs after July 1, 1989.
3. Registered Nurses or ~~LPN~~ students who have finished the basic nursing course (for example: Introduction to Nursing, or Fundamentals of Nursing). The individual must provide a copy of their school transcript, or documentation showing successful completion of the basic nursing course, to qualify ~~to take for~~ the state competency examination.
4. Registered nurses or licensed practical nurses that have had disciplinary action resulting in suspension, revocation, or voluntary surrender of license due to disciplinary action, shall not be allowed an exemption to training or be allowed to challenge the state examination.

5. Home health aides who have met appropriate federal training or examination requirements for HHA certification. Verification must show completion of a minimum of seventy-~~five-four~~ (754) hours classroom training, and sixteen (16) hours of supervised practical training, or federal testing requirements as a home health aide. This provision does not apply to "personal care aides" as their training requirements of forty (40) hours does not meet the ninety (90) hour requirement for the LTCF Nursing Assistant Training Program's; ~~ninety (90) hours or curriculum content.~~
6. Individuals from other states who can verify completion of a state approved geriatric nursing assistant training program but ~~who~~ were not tested and registered. ~~(If registered in the other state, see Section VIII for reciprocity transfers without further examination.)~~ Verification of course completion rests with the individual and must be submitted to the DHS designated contractor for approval to take the Arkansas competency examination.
7. Nursing assistants whose certification has become inactive based on the recertification requirements (see Section VIII, item ~~DC~~₇). These individuals shall be required to be retested for recertification. Permission for retesting shall require an "admission slip" obtained from the examination agency prior to the specified examination date.

All other ~~persons~~ individuals trained in programs that have not received approval from the Department as a training provider shall not qualify and shall not be allowed to take the examination. Such programs may include hospitals, emergency medical technicians, medical assistant programs, personal care aides, correspondence courses, independent study, on-the-job training, or in-service training, as they are not acceptable in lieu of the approved training program.

Arkansas Code §17-4-106 Certified Nursing Assistant Licensures of Uniformed Service Members, Veterans, and Spouses

To comply with Arkansas Occupational Licensing of Uniformed Service Members, Veterans, and Spouses Act of 2021, the following rules apply to uniformed service members, uniformed service veterans, and their spouses for licensure as defined below:

1. A uniformed service member stationed in the State of Arkansas;
2. A uniformed service veteran who resides in or establishes residency in the State of Arkansas and makes an application within one (1) year of his or her discharge from uniformed service; and
3. The spouse of:
 - a. A uniformed service member stationed in the State of Arkansas;
 - b. A uniformed service veteran who resides in or establishes residency in the State of Arkansas;

- c. A uniformed service member who is assigned a tour of duty that excludes the uniformed service member's spouse from accompanying the uniformed service member and the spouse relocates to this state; and
- d. A uniformed service member who is killed or succumbs to his or her injuries or illness in the line of duty if the spouse establishes residency in the state.

It is the intent of the Department to prevent removal of occupational licensure barriers for CNA licensures that may impede the launch and sustainability of civilian occupational careers and employment faced by uniformed service members, uniformed service veterans, and their spouses due to frequent uniformed service assignment by providing;

- 1. Automatic Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Licensures. Automatic CNA licensures will be provided to current license holders in order to expedite their entry into the workforce of this state by means of reciprocity. Reciprocity may be granted without further training or testing.
 - a. The process of reciprocity includes completion of the following with the state Vendor:
 - i. Form 9110AR- Out of State Employment Verification for AR Registry Renewal
 - ii. Form DD214-DD 214/Separation Documents
 - iii. Form DMS-798- Interstate Transfer Form/CNA Reg. Exemption/Reciprocity Request.
 - iv. Image/copy of individuals social security card
 - v. Image/copy of valid US government issued photo identification; and
 - vi. Proof of service education, training, experience, and service-issued credentials by means of a Joint Service Transcript (JST).
 - b. Reciprocity is granted to those who meet the following criteria:
 - i. Completion of a training and competency evaluation program to become registered as a nursing assistant in another state, territory, or district of the United States that meets federal guidelines.
 - ii. A holder in good standings with CNA licensure within a similar scope of practice by another state, territory, or district of the United States.
- 2. Temporary or Provisional Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Licensures. Temporary or provisional CNA licensures to initial CNA licensures candidates will be provided while expediting full licensure by recognizing uniformed service education, training, experience, and service issued credentials of uniformed service members and uniformed service veterans applying for initial CNA licensure. The following criteria will be classified as meeting service education, training, experience, and credentials;
 - a. Ninety (90) hours of approved education, training, or experience in healthcare.
 - b. Sixteen (16) hours of supervised practical skills training in an Arkansas facility; and
 - c. passing the Arkansas Nurse Aide Testing with three (3) given attempts in one hundred eighty (180) days post application.
- 3. Extension of License Expiration and Continuing Education Requirements. Extension of license expiration and any continuing education requirements for CNA licensure renewal for a deployed uniformed service member or their spouse will be granted the following:
 - a. An extension of the expiration date of a CNA licensure for one hundred eighty (180) days following the date of the uniformed service member's return from

deployment.

- b. An extension from continuing education requirements for one hundred eighty (180) days following the date of the uniformed service member or from the uniformed service member's return from deployment.

The Department may require evidence of completion of continuing education before granting a subsequent CNA licensure or authorizing the renewal of a CNA licensure to allow full or partial exemption from continuing education requirements.

Uniformed service members, veterans and spouses who successfully meet the criteria and standards within the provisions shall be placed on the CNA registry and issued a state certificate. Information regarding Military Member Licensure can be found on the DHS-Division of Provider Services and Quality Assurance website at: <http://humanservices.arkansas.gov/about-dhs/dms/office-of-long-term-care>.

Section VIII

CNA REGISTRY

A. Function and Content

1. The Department shall establish and maintain a registry of all individuals who have satisfactorily completed the training and competency ~~evaluation-~~examination program requirements. The nursing assistant registry shall be incorporated into the Long-Term Care Facility Employment Clearance Registry (ECR), which ~~also includes criminal record disqualifications for applicable employees and job applicants, and~~ shall include substantiated administrative findings of abuse, neglect, or misappropriation of resident property for ~~employees~~ CNAs.

2. The information in the registry shall be made available to the public, ~~and~~ Registry information shall be open for inquiries twenty-four (24) hours per day, seven (7) days per week (except for scheduled maintenance or at times of technical problems), by computer through an online website system (see Subsection B of this section).

3. The Certified nNursing aAssistant registry record, for each individual who has successfully obtained certification as a LTCF nursing assistant shall contain the following information:

- iIndividual's full name;
- dDate of birth;
- ~~Social Security Number;~~
- nName and date of the State approved training program successfully completed;
- eCertification number and date of issuance;
- Current active or inactive status; and
- mMost recent re-certification date; and
- ~~documentation of investigations showing substantiated findings of resident neglect, abuse, or misappropriation of resident property by the nursing assistant including a summary of the findings, and where applicable, the date and results of the hearing or date of a waiver of hearing, and a statement by the nursing assistant disputing the findings of the investigation.~~

4. The Department shall review and investigate allegations of neglect, abuse, or misappropriation of resident property by a nursing assistant. A nursing assistant shall be given written notice by the Department of a finding on an allegation and must request, in writing, a formal hearing within thirty (30) days of receipt of the notice or the right to a hearing shall be waived. Following any appeal, the registry and the nursing assistant shall be notified of the findings. If the finding is substantiated either by the individual's failure to appeal or by issuance of a final administrative order, the registry shall include the documented findings involving an individual listed in the registry, as well as any brief statement of the individual disputing the findings. (See Subsection E of this Section for the process to petition to remove findings of neglect.)

5. The Department, in the case of inquiries to the registry, shall verify if the individual is listed in the registry and shall disclose any information concerning a finding of resident neglect, resident abuse, or misappropriation of resident property involving an individual listed in the registry. It shall also disclose any statement by the individual related to the finding or a clear and accurate summary of such a statement.

B. Inquiry Process

1. A facility must inquire of the registry as to information in the registry concerning any individual to be used as a nursing assistant. A facility may not use an individual as a nursing assistant until registry inquiry and clearance is obtained. Registry inquiries shall be performed within five calendar days of the offer of employment and prior to any resident contact. A facility must document all inquiries and must include such documentation in the personnel file of each nursing assistant used by the facility.

2. Registry clearance shall be obtained by computer access to the online website system. The URL address to the online website system shall be issued by the OLTC Department, or its designated agent, and may be subject to change. If needed, facilities should contact the OLTC Department for the latest contact information for the system.

3. The online website system will maintain an internal log of each inquiry made by Arkansas nursing facilities using a numeric code (Registry Identification Number) assigned to each facility. The internal log shall be monitored by OLTC the Department to verify each facility's compliance with inquiry requirements.

4. The online website system is capable of providing a printable registry clearance verification report document for the nursing facility's use in record keeping. The facility shall be required to print the registry clearance report and maintain this report in the employee's personnel file.

5. Registry clearances accessed through the online system require the nursing assistant's Social Security Number (SSN) and date of birth. Facilities are required to access by using the SSN or certification number in order to assure an accurate inquiry.

NAME SEARCHES ARE POSSIBLE ON THE ONLINE SYSTEM BUT ACCURACY IS NOT ASSURED. NAME SEARCHES MAY ALSO BE OBTAINED BY CALLING THE OLTC DEPARTMENT. PLEASE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT NAME SEARCHES BY CALLING OLTC THE DEPARTMENT DO NOT GENERATE A VERIFICATION LOG OF THE CLEARANCE. THEREFORE, FACILITIES SHALL AVOID THE USE OF NAME SEARCHES WHEN THE NEED FOR DOCUMENTATION AND ACCURACY OF THE REGISTRY CHECK IS REQUIRED.

C. Inter-state (Reciprocity) Transfer

1. If an individual has completed a training and competency ~~evaluation-examination~~ program and become ~~registered-certified~~ as a nursing assistant in other state(s) that meet federal guidelines, reciprocity may be granted without further training or testing. The DMS-798, Interstate Transfer Form, must be submitted to ~~OLTC-the DHS designated contractor~~ with a copy of each ~~other-state's certificate or /registration document~~. ~~OLTC-The DHS designated contractor~~ will contact ~~each-the~~ other state to clear the individual's status for the transfer of their certification through reciprocity. ~~However, this process may take several weeks to complete and t~~The facility may not use the individual until each other state's registry is cleared. ~~If the facility wishes, they may telephone each other state's registry, document the contact in the individual's file and use the NA in staffing (if in good standing on the other state's registry) while OLTC processes the official transfer. Contact must be made to all states the individual has worked as a nursing assistant~~ Once that information is received, the CNA may be added to the CNA registry.

2. ~~This process for out-of-state registry verification becomes complicated if the individual is not officially registered under the new federal standards. Facilities may not use these individuals in staffing until their qualifications have been cleared by OLTC. The same process described above, of submitting the DMS-798, Interstate Transfer Form, with copies of certificates or documents attached, also applies. Some of these individuals may qualify for registration under certain exemption criteria; some may be required to take the Arkansas state test, and some may be required to complete both training and testing. In any case, OLTC has the responsibility to make these determinations and notify the facility and/or individual of the results.~~

D. Certification Renewal

The initial certification period is valid for twenty-four (24) months. Each certificate contains an expiration date. The Department will develop a plan and procedure to renew each nursing assistant certification listed in the registry on a biennial basis (every two years). The renewal process will require the nursing assistant to document having worked as a nursing assistant for monetary compensation during the prior two years. This provision shall be defined by at least one documented day (e.g.e.g., eight (8) hours) of employment providing nursing or nursing-related services for monetary compensation in any setting.

CNAs who provide services for private pay clients must include a check stub and a notarized letter from the employer, which should include CNA duties performed within the twenty-four (24) month period, to verify current employment or employment within the last twenty-four (24) month period.

1. —

2.1. Employing facilities and/or individuals shall be required to submit updated information to the registry to establish ongoing eligibility for active

status. The registry shall make "inactive" those individuals who cannot document having worked in an aide capacity within a twenty-four (24)-month period. Nursing assistants who are currently employed as a nursing assistant at the time of their renewal will be renewed for twenty-four (24) months. Nursing assistants who are not currently employed will be renewed for twenty-four (24) months beginning with the last day employed as a nursing assistant. A certification that has been expired for a period longer than twenty-four (24) months cannot be renewed and the individual ~~must shall~~ retest and complete sixteen (16) hours of clinical to re-certify to an active status.

~~3.2.~~ An individual will be required to successfully complete a new competency evaluation test to become recertified (see Section VII, item D-7) if documentation of having worked in an aide capacity within the previous twenty-four (24)-month period ~~can not~~ be provided or for any certification that has been expired for over twenty-four (24) months.

4. — The process to renew a nursing assistant certification shall be overseen implemented by the Department or its agent. Each certified nursing assistant ~~will shall~~ be responsible for renewing mailed a renewal form their certification online approximately sixty (60) calendar days before the expiration of their certification. ~~The renewal form shall be mailed to the home address currently listed in the registry database when the nursing assistant was initially tested or renewed. It is the responsibility of each nursing assistant to update their mailing address by contacting the Department or its designated agent. It is the responsibility of each nursing assistant to renew their certification regardless if they have received the mailed renewal notice. Renewal forms may be obtained from the OLTC or its designated agent.~~

~~3.~~

~~5.4.~~ Individuals listed on the LTCF Employment Clearance Registry with a disqualification status due to a substantiated administrative finding of abuse, neglect, misappropriation of resident property or a disqualifying criminal record in accordance with Ark. Code Ann. § 20-38-101 et seq shall not be eligible to renew their certification. Individuals approved for removal of a neglect finding pursuant to Subsection VIII (E) shall be eligible to renew their certification.

~~6.5.~~ Nursing assistant certifications may not be renewed more than sixty (60) calendar days prior to the expiration date.

~~7.6.~~ Renewals may be completed through the conducted either by mail or through an online website. The Department or its designated agent shall provide instructions for the online renewal process ~~attached to the renewal notice~~.

~~8.7.~~ The Arkansas Nursing Assistant Registry ~~R~~renewal ~~Form~~ must be fully completed by the CNA, and the information ~~in the form~~ must be accurate to the best of their knowledge, ~~and information of the nursing assistant~~. Failure to fully complete the renewal or provide false or inaccurate information the form, or the inclusion of false or inaccurate information, shall constitute the basis for denial of certification renewal.

9.8. When a nursing assistant renewal is processed ~~(either by mail or online)~~ and the nursing assistant is determined to be eligible for renewal, a new certificate showing the new expiration date will be ~~mailed available online to for~~ the ~~individual CNA to print~~ and their registry record shall be updated to reflect the new certification period.

E. Petition to Remove Neglect Findings

Pursuant to federal law 42 U.S.C. § 1395i-3(g)(1)(D), in the case of a finding of neglect under Subsection A of Section VIII of these rules, the ~~Office of Long-Term Care Department~~ shall establish a procedure that permits a certified nursing assistant to petition for the removal of a substantiated finding of neglect. ~~The procedure to file a petition~~ Petitions shall be as follows:

1. Factors that must be met are:
 - a. The certified nursing assistant must have a substantiated finding of neglect. There shall not be a ~~petition~~ Petition process available for substantiated findings of physical abuse, verbal abuse or misappropriation of resident property.
 - b. The ~~Office of Long Term Care Department~~ makes a determination that the ~~p~~P~~etitioner's applicant's~~ employment and personal record does not reflect a pattern of abusive behavior or neglect. Factors to be considered shall include, but shall not be limited to:
 - The neglect that resulted in a finding was a singular occurrence as identified in the incident investigation file.
 - The ~~petition applicant~~ Petitioner does not have a criminal conviction related to neglect, abusive behavior, or physical violence.
 - The ~~petition applicant~~ Petitioner's name does not appear on the Adult and Long-Term Care Facility Resident Maltreatment Central DHS/Division of Aging and Adult Services' Adult Abuse Registry or the DHS/Division of Children and Family Services' Child Abuse Registry.
 - Whether a pattern of abusive behavior or neglect is discovered through reference checks with prior employers or other parties.
 - Character references as provided by the ~~petition applicant~~ Petitioner.
 - c. At least one year has passed since the ~~petition applicant~~ Petitioner's substantiated finding of neglect was placed on the Registry.
2. The procedure to file for a ~~p~~Petition to remove a neglect finding

shall include the following:

- a. ~~Petitioner applicant~~ Petitioner shall submit a letter requesting the removal of the neglect finding. The letter shall be addressed to:

Division of Provider Services
and Quality Assurance
~~Office of Long Term Care~~
Nursing Assistant Training Program
Mail Slot S-405, P.O. Box 8059
Little Rock, AR 72203-8059

- b. The ~~petition applicant~~ Petitioner must provide the following information with their request letter:
 - Full name and current mailing address;
 - Day-time phone number;
 - Social Security Number;
 - Date of birth;
 - Name and day-time phone number of at least two (2) personal character references;
 - Letters of reference from any employment within the previous year from the date of the ~~p~~Petitioner request. This letter must include a statement attesting to the ~~petition applicant~~ Petitioner's work performance in relation to the lack of any incidents involving abusive or negligent behavior;
 - A current criminal record report from the Arkansas State Police. If the ~~p~~Petitioner ~~applicant~~ is currently or has recently (within the previous twelve (12) months) lived in another state, a criminal record report must be provided from that state. All criminal record reports must be an original document and copies will not be accepted.
3. The ~~Office of Long Term Care Department~~ shall review each ~~petition~~ Petitioner request for consideration for removal of the neglect finding. The review shall be conducted by an administrative review panel consisting of at least three (3) members appointed by the ~~Office~~ Division Director. The panel shall meet within thirty (30) days of any ~~p~~Petitioner request. The review panel shall consider all information submitted by the ~~p~~Petitioner ~~applicant~~ and may conduct additional research as needed.
4. The review panel shall render a decision within thirty (30) calendar days of the panel's review, and the ~~p~~Petitioner ~~applicant~~ shall be notified in writing within ten (10) business days of the review committee's final determination.

5. If the ~~petition~~Petitioner to remove the neglect finding is approved, the Registry shall be updated within ~~ten (10) work days-business days~~ to show the ~~petition-applicant~~Petitioner no longer has the neglect record and shall be eligible for employment in Arkansas long term care facilities. Note that any CNA whose certification has been expired for over ~~twenty-four (24)~~ months must successfully complete the state competency test to re-establish employment eligibility as a certified nursing assistant.
6. Any applicant whose ~~petition~~Petitioner has been denied may not re-apply for a subsequent ~~petition~~Petitioner request for a period of at least ~~twelve (12)~~ months from the date of the previous denial.
7. If the ~~petition~~Petitioner to remove the neglect finding is denied by the review panel, any further appeals of the committee's determination shall be based on the appeals procedures as listed below:
 - a. Administrative hearings are available to persons, herein referred to as ~~p~~Petitioners, who disagree with determinations to deny a ~~petition~~Petitioner to remove a neglect finding made by the ~~Office of Long Term Care~~Department as described in these rules.
 - b. ~~When-If~~ a ~~p~~Petitioner wishes to appeal, ~~he/she-they~~ may do so by mailing a written notice of appeal to ~~the Office of Appeals and Hearings (Slot 1001), Office of Chief Counsel,~~ Arkansas Department of Human Services, P.O. Box 1437-~~Slot N401~~, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203. The notice shall be mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested. The notice of appeal shall state the following:
 1. Name of the ~~p~~Petitioner;
 2. Address of the ~~p~~Petitioner;
 3. Date of birth of the ~~p~~Petitioner;
 4. Phone number, if any, of the ~~p~~Petitioner;
 5. The ~~p~~Petitioner's place of employment;
 6. A short statement explaining why the ~~p~~Petitioner believes the determination/decision is in error.
 - c. The notice of appeal must be ~~received~~postmarked by the Appeals and Hearing Office within ~~thirty (30)~~ calendar days from the ~~mailing-date~~receipt of the notification of denial of the ~~notification document of the determination of~~petition-denial. No appeal shall be accepted ~~after thirty (30) calendar days prior to such a of~~

receipt of the determination/decision.

- d. A hearing shall be conducted by the Office of Appeals and Hearings, ~~Section, Office of Chief Counsel,~~ Department of Human Services. The procedures to conduct the hearing are as follows:

1. The hearing record will contain all documents, exhibits and testimony admitted into evidence by the hearing officer. Within twenty (20) calendar days of receipt of notice that a pPetitioner has requested a hearing, the pPetitioner and the ~~Office of Long Term Care~~Department will prepare a file to be submitted to the Office of Appeals and Hearings, ~~Section,~~ and mail a copy of the file by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the other party. The file will contain only documentary evidence supporting or tending to support each party's allegations. The ~~Office of Long Term Care~~Department will also submit an Administrative Hearing Statement summarizing the determination/decision. This statement is not evidence. Only such portions of each file as ~~are~~ determined by the hearing officer to be relevant shall be included in the Administrative Hearing Record.

2. Both parties will be advised by the ~~Appeals and Hearings Section~~Office of Appeals and Hearings via certified mail, return receipt requested, that they have ten (10) calendar days from the date the certified mail receipt was signed to review the hearing file and submit a request to subpoena witnesses. The request shall include the name, address and telephone number of all witnesses not employed by ~~the Department of Human Services (DHS).~~ DHS employees will be expected to attend hearings and present testimony without the benefit of a subpoena and will be notified by the ~~Appeals and Hearings Section~~Office of Appeals and Hearings of their required presence at the hearing. Each party will be notified of any witnesses requested and will have five (5) business days from the receipt of this notice to request subpoenas for rebuttal witnesses.

The Department of Human Services, Office of Chief Counsel, will issue the subpoenas, pursuant to the terms and authority of Ark. Code Ann. § 20-76-103.

3. After the time frame has expired for subpoenaing witnesses, the hearing officer will schedule the hearing to afford the pPetitioner, the ~~Office of Long Term Care~~Department, and their attorneys, if any, at least ten (10) calendar ~~days notice~~days' notice of the date, place and time of the hearing. The scheduling letter, sent via certified mail with return receipt requested, shall also contain the name of the hearing officer who will conduct the hearing. In the event the pPetitioner, the ~~Office of Long Term~~

Care-Department representative, or an attorney representing the pPetitioner suffers from illness or cannot attend the hearing due to scheduling conflicts, that party may request the hearing be continued. The hearing will be rescheduled by the hearing officer upon a showing of good cause. A request for continuance made by the pPetitioner or the pPetitioner's attorney will constitute a waiver of any objection as to timeliness of the hearing. In each case, the hearing and hearing record must be completed within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days of receipt of the request for a hearing.

4. The hearing will take place at a place, time, and manner determined by the Office of Appeals and Hearing-Office. Hearings may be conducted by telephone, by personal appearance of the parties, or by record review by the Office of Appeals and Hearings-Office.

5. If the pPetitioner fails to appear for the hearing when conducted by telephone or by personal appearance of the parties and does not contact the Office of Appeals and Hearings Section prior to the date of the hearing of his/her-their inability to attend, the appeal will be deemed abandoned. The pPetitioner will be advised of this fact in the scheduling letter.

6. It is the responsibility of the Office of Long-Term-CareDepartment to designate a representative prior to the time of the hearing. The representative should be familiar with the circumstances of the determination/decision and be able to summarize the pertinent aspects of the situation and present the documentation to support the basis for the determination/decision. The representative should also be able to answer questions posed by the pPetitioner or the hearing officer relative to the issues and should be prepared to cross examine adverse witnesses. The representative may request the services of an Office of Chief Counsel attorney for representation at the hearing.

7. If any party is to be represented by an attorney, notice shall be given to all parties and to the Office of Appeals and Hearings Section at least ten (10) calendar days prior to the hearing. Failure to furnish notice shall entitle other parties to a continuance to obtain counsel. Petitioner's failure to furnish notice shall constitute a waiver of objection as to timeliness of the hearing.

8. The hearing will be conducted by a hearing officer from the Office of Appeals and Hearings Section who had no part in the determination/decision upon which the hearing is being conducted.

9. The pPetitioner may be accompanied by friends or other persons and may be represented by a friend, legal counsel, or other

designated representative.

10. The hearing officer may not review the case record or other material either prior to or during the hearing unless such material is made available to the pPetitioner or ~~his/her~~ their representative.

11. The hearing will be conducted in an informal but orderly manner. The hearing officer will explain the hearing procedure to the pPetitioner. The administrative hearing statement will be read by the ~~Office of Long Term Care~~ Department representative. The ~~Office of Long Term Care~~ Department shall then present its case. After completion of the ~~Office's~~ Department's case, the pPetitioner's case will be presented. The parties shall have the opportunity to present witnesses, advance arguments, offer additional evidence, and to confront and cross examine adverse witnesses. If the pPetitioner is unable to present ~~his~~ their evidence in a logical manner, the hearing officer will assist the pPetitioner. Questioning of all parties will be confined to the issue(s) involved.

12. The hearing officer will prepare a comprehensive report of the proceedings. The report will consist of an introduction, findings of fact, conclusions of law and decision. The report shall constitute the final agency determination. The determination shall be mailed to the pPetitioner and the ~~Office of Long Term~~ Care Department.

- e. Any further review must be pursued in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, Arkansas Code Annotated § 25-15-101 et seq.

Section IX

METHODOLOGY FOR REVIEW OF COMPLIANCE WITH PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

A. Monitoring

1. A program is subject to inspection at any reasonable time by personnel authorized by the Department. After initial approval of a training program, the Department ~~shall~~ has the right to ~~do an on-site~~ an onsite or virtual visit review to determine the program's implementation of and compliance with the requirements. To ensure ongoing compliance, the Department shall have the right to review complete unannounced, onsite, or virtual visits at a minimum of once the program on-site at least every two (2) years.

2. Program reviews may be comprehensive or partial. Based on the findings of the most current review, or overall test scores, a program may be reviewed ~~with an increased~~ more often and in depth. ~~frequency and depth.~~

3. ~~An~~ The inspector will generate file a written report with the Department. ~~The report that~~ will specify strengths and deficiencies of the program ~~and be available to the program.~~ The Department will terminate ~~those~~ programs that do not meeting minimum requirements and that do not provide an acceptable plan for correcting deficiencies within the specified ~~time frame~~ timeframe as established by the ~~Office of Long Term Care~~ Department.

4. The program will be able to re-apply for in-person or virtual instruction after the one (1) year suspension.

5. If a training program is deficient, a corrective action plan must be submitted to the Department within ten (10) business days of receiving the notification. The corrective action plan may be returned to the program for further clarification, if the plan does not accurately describe a plan that corrects the deficient practice. The Department will send notification to the program upon approval of the corrective action plan. The corrective action plan must include, at a minimum, the following:

- Activities to correct deficiencies;
- Person responsible for correcting the deficiencies;
- Implementation date; and
- Signature of the primary instructor.

Failure to respond or inadequate corrective actions may cause suspension of the Department's approval of the program.

~~3.~~

B. Items Subject to Monitoring Minimum Program Standards

~~4.~~ 1. Maintenance of Secure Records - Each training program shall provide for secure maintenance of records. Records to be maintained and

protected shall include ~~but not be limited to~~ at a minimum, the following:

- ~~n~~Names of enrollees;
- ~~n~~Names of those who successfully complete the program
- ~~dates Begin and end dates of initiation and termination of each class; program~~
~~curricular~~Curriculum and/or revisions of curriculum, with approval from the Department;
- ~~t~~Tests, grades, course documents, skills checklist;
- ~~e~~Credentials of instructors;
- ~~d~~Documentation of all state approvals; and
- ~~r~~Record of complaints (i.e.i.e., nature of complaint, date of complaint, investigation summary and outcome).

~~2. The program monitoring~~Department shall review for compliance with requirements, at a minimum:

(a) 2. Compliance with the following Pprogram related curriculum content, :

~~(b)~~(a) Program length;

~~(e)~~(b) Ratio of classroom to skills training;

~~(d)~~(c) Qualifications of instructors;

~~(e)~~(d) Quality of skills training supervision;

~~(f)~~(e) Access for clinical training in a nursing facility that was not disqualified based on criteria specified in Section V (B);

~~(f)~~ Physical (classroom and lab) facilities; and

~~(g)~~ Virtual classroom capabilities.

~~2. Quality of Care - The quality of care provided by individual nursing assistants that is monitored during a licensure and/or survey and certification survey shall be one part of the program review. The monitoring of "quality of care" shall apply only to graduates of the facility based training program being surveyed.~~

~~3.~~

~~4. Success Rate - The graduates' success rate of both virtual and in-person trainees on the state competency examination will be monitored by the Department and shall be utilized as a criterion for revoking program approval.~~

~~5. Any other requirements included in this manual. Programs that do not meet these minimum standards shall be notified in form of a letter. This letter shall list all deficiencies that require corrective action. The program will be required to respond in writing within 15 business days specifying actions to correct the deficiencies. Failure to respond or inadequate corrective actions may cause withdrawal of the Department's~~

approval of the program.

Marki-Up

Section X

REIMBURSEMENTS

A. General Provisions

1. This section sets forth policy for direct reimbursement for allowable nursing assistant training costs incurred by Medicaid certified nursing facilities. Allowable training costs will be separately tracked, documented, and submitted monthly as described herein. All reimbursements shall be made directly to the Medicaid certified nursing facility.

2. Based on Federal regulations, nursing assistants who are employed by (or who have a “letter of intent” to be employed by) a Medicaid certified nursing facility may not be charged for any portion of the program (including any fees for textbooks or other required course material). The Department shall be responsible to pay for the training costs one (1) time for individuals who are employed ~~by,~~ or by or have a “letter of intent” to be employed, by a Medicaid certified nursing facility as set forth in this Section.

2.

The criteria required for reimbursements under the “letter of intent” arrangement must meet the following:

a. Letters of intent must be on the facility letterhead, dated within twelve (12) months immediately preceding the training and signed by the facility Administrator. Copies of the Administrator’s signature are not allowed;

b. The facility must have on file a job application completed and signed by the individual receiving the letter of intent;

c. The facility must complete a criminal record check on the individual in accordance with Ark. Code Ann. § 20-38-101 et seq; and

d. The facility must retain copies of documents to verify compliance with these provisions as specified in Subsection E of this section.

3. Allowable costs for nursing assistant training reimbursement may include the costs for operation of an approved nursing assistant training program, the costs associated with a cooperative training effort with a neighboring approved training program (not claimed by that program) and the costs of having nursing assistants trained in an approved non-~~facility-based~~facility-based training program (paid by the facility). **Nursing Assistant salaries and fringe benefits, including amounts paid while in training, and in-service/continuing education costs are not directly reimbursable but are included on the facility's annual cost report and reimbursed through the per diem rates.**

4. Reimbursement of nursing facility costs for training of nursing assistants

must be allocated between Medicaid, Medicare, and private pay patients. Medicaid may not be charged for that portion of these costs that are properly charged to Medicare or private pay activities. Therefore, the ~~Office of Long Term Care Department~~ will pay only the percentage of the total billed or maximum limit (see item D) for nursing assistant training based on the percentage of Medicaid recipients indicated on the billing. Facilities should continue to bill for the total amount of expenses incurred. The recipient information should reflect the midnight census for the last day of the month.

B. Allowable Costs

The following costs are allowable for nursing assistant training:

1. Nursing Assistant Transportation Expenses. The dollar amount of transportation expenses paid directly to or reimbursed for the NA to attend training or to travel to a NA competency evaluation site.
2. Books. The dollar amount spent for books purchased specifically for use in the NA training program.
3. Instructional Equipment. The dollar amount spent for equipment such as ~~overhead projectors, VCRs, film projectors~~ SMARTBoards, iPads and Apple TV, Chromebooks, multi-media projectors, DVDs, etc. purchased specifically for use in the NA training program.
4. Instructional Videos. The dollar amount spent for instructional videos, ~~video disc(s), films~~, etc. purchased specifically for use in the NA training program.
5. Other Training Materials. The dollar amount spent for other approved training materials purchased specifically for use in the NA training program.
6. Training Space. The dollar amount spent for the rent of classroom space (outside the facility), lab equipment, etc. specifically for the NA training program. Construction costs for training facilities will not be authorized.
7. Instructor Wages. The dollar amount of wages paid to the NA Instructor for training time, only while the NA Instructor is not included in the NF's staffing pattern providing nursing services.

Facilities should not include the time spent proctoring the skills test as a training activity ~~reported to OLTC~~ for reimbursement. Information reported to ~~OLTC-DHS~~ on the DMS-755 is strictly for training, **not testing activity.**

8. Instructor Fringe Benefits. The dollar amount paid for fringe benefits for

the NA Instructor while training, only while the NA Instructor is not included in the NF's staffing pattern providing nursing services.

9. Nursing Assistant Consultant Training Fees. The dollar amount paid to a consultant trainer for NA training.
10. Consultant Reimbursable Expenses. The dollar amount paid to a consultant trainer for reimbursable expenses such as travel and lodging.
11. Instructor Workshop Fees. The amount of tuition and registration fees paid for NA training program instructors to attend instructor workshops. Instructor workshops must meet requirements established by the Office of ~~Long-Term~~Long-Term Care to qualify for reimbursement and participants must be approved for attendance by the Office of ~~Long-Term~~Long-Term Care.
12. Instructor Workshop Travel Expenses. Travel expenses and lodging paid directly or reimbursed for NA training program instructors to attend instructor workshops.
13. Nursing Assistant Training Tuition. The dollar amount spent on tuition for employees (and potential employees given a "letter of intent", dated within ~~twelve~~ (12) months immediately preceding the date of the completion of training) to attend NA training in an approved non-facility training program. The actual amount of tuition paid for a student, up to a **maximum of \$480.00 per student**, will be reimbursed as allowable cost. This amount is based on the provision of the minimum ~~ninety~~ (90) hours training required by the Department.

C. Claims Submission

1. Claims for reimbursement of expenses incurred for NA training costs shall be submitted to the ~~Office of Long-Term Care~~Department ~~on a monthly basis~~ on form DMS- 755. Claims ~~for the expense month~~ can be submitted no earlier than the first day of the month ~~or the last day of the month~~ following the expense month. The report forms will be designed to capture the above cost categories by use area in either formal "approved" or combined/cooperative training. Therefore, documentation of these costs should be accounted for in a manner consistent with these categories.
2. Claims must be submitted to the ~~Office of Long-Term Care~~Department within ~~thirty~~ (30) calendar days following the end of the expense month. **Claims not submitted timely or claims that are incomplete will not be accepted for payment and shall be returned to the facility. Corrected claims must be submitted within fifteen (15) calendar days of the date returned.**

3. A claim for reimbursement may not be submitted for any month in which no students completed training. Unclaimed costs in this circumstance may be carried over to the month when students complete training and will still be subject to the \$480.00 maximum cost limit per student (see item D - Maximum Cost Limit).

4. All ~~submitted~~ submitted claims must include a copy of each trainee's Certificate of Completion from the training program and a copy of the ~~OLTC~~ DHS issued CRC Determination Letter. In accordance with Section 203.1 of the Rules for Conducting Criminal Record Checks for Employees of ~~Long-Term~~ Long-Term Care Facilities, the facility must complete the criminal record check for each trainee prior to conducting the nursing assistant training or prior to sponsoring the trainee through the "letter for intent to employ" provisions as specified in item A (2) and B (13) of this section.

5. **Reimbursements are not allowed and shall be denied to facilities for the following:**

a. **Individuals listed on the LTCF Employment Clearance Registry with a disqualification status due to a substantiated administrative finding of abuse, neglect, misappropriation of resident property or a disqualifying criminal record in accordance with Ark. Code Ann. § 20-38-101 et seq.**

b. **Individuals listed on the LTCF Employment Clearance Registry with an expired certification. These individuals are not required to be retrained and may retest in accordance with Section VII (D) (6) of these rules.**

c. **Individuals who, prior to training, did not complete a criminal record check in accordance with Ark. Code Ann. § 20-38-101 et seq.**

6. All claim forms (DMS-755) must be submitted with original signatures of the nursing facility Administrator. ~~"Copied" signatures~~ Copies will not be accepted.

D. Maximum Cost Limit

1. In an ~~efforts~~ to establish proper and efficient administration of training costs reimbursements, a reasonable maximum cost limit shall be imposed. Based on analysis of nursing assistant training costs, \$480.00 per student will be the maximum paid to facilities on their claims. This limit shall be imposed based on the number of students who finish the training program. Claims must show actual costs incurred and reimbursements will be made for actual costs but not to exceed the maximum limit of \$480.00 per student who complete the training.

2. Example: Claim form shows actual costs is \$1250.00 with four students completing the course. As \$1250.00 is less than \$1920.00 (~~four~~ (4) students x \$480 = \$ 1920 maximum) the actual costs will be reimbursed. If this example had only two students completing, the maximum would be \$960.00 (2 students x

\$480) and the reimbursement would be capped at \$960.00 rather than paying the full \$1250.00 actual expenses.

E. Cost Reporting and Record Retention

1. NA training costs directly reimbursed by the Department of Human Services shall be included in the nursing facility's annual Financial and Statistical Cost Report (FSR) and shall be reported as revenue offsets to NA training costs. Facilities must retain receipts/documentation of NA training costs submitted to the ~~OLTC~~Department for reimbursement for a period of not less than five (5) years or until all audit findings are final. Any facility claiming reimbursement for costs not actually incurred or not properly documented will be required to provide restitution to the Department of Human Services and will be subject to fines and/or prosecution as authorized by State and/or Federal ~~Statutes~~statutes.

METHODOLOGY FOR REVIEW OF COMPLIANCE WITH VIRTUAL TRAINING

VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION ONLY APPLIES TO LECTURE PORTION OF TRAINING

All content taught to students remains the same whether the program offers in-person or virtual instruction. If the program chooses to offer virtual instruction, the expectation of delivery of information remains the same as in-person. Virtual instruction must be indicated on the application and a virtual plan must be submitted to the Department for approval. If the program fails to meet the guidelines, it will result in temporary suspension and/or a deficiency. In addition to complying with rules, the following requirements must be met.

A. Requirements

1. A program is subject to inspection of virtual instruction at any time by Department personnel. A program who provides virtual instruction must have practical capabilities and set forth expectations including, but not limited to, the following:

- a) Internet capabilities for the program and the participants;
- b) Requirements of logging into the virtual site at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to the beginning of class and staying connected virtually until class ends;
- c) A camera that is turned on during instruction. All participants (whether in group setting or individual) should be visible at all times other than breaks and lunches;
- d) Individual logins must be tracked and maintained for auditing purposes by the Department;
- 2. Virtual programs are responsible for ensuring that the Department has the virtual link to audit compliance with these rules. The link must be functional and active at all times.
- 3. All participants must be able to have visible access to observe all curriculum activities (i.e., hands-on demonstration, notes on board, and all instruction provided by the program).

4. All videos to be viewed must be included in the curriculum for in-person and virtual training. as well as virtual.

5. All skills labs must be in-person.

—6. The Pprograms must provide training materials prior to class, including but not limited, web access to materials.

B. Monitoring

1. The Department may monitor compliance with the aforementioned rules in addition to all other requirements in this manual.

2. Programs and Instructors are responsible for the success of virtual instruction. The graduates' success rate of both virtual and in-person trainees on the state competency examination will be monitored by the Department and shall be utilized as the requirement for continuing virtual instruction. If the fail rate of virtual instruction is

~~greater than 50%, and the greater fail rate occurs within two times of the twelve-month period, virtual instruction will be suspended for six (6) months from the date of revocation. The program will be able to re-apply for virtual instruction after the six (6) months suspension.~~

Nursing Assistant Training Cost Reimbursement Claim Form

The Nursing Assistant Training Cost Reimbursement Claim Form (DMS-755) is specific to each facility; ~~the form is not generic.~~

To obtain a form DMS-755, ~~please call 501-320-6461~~ or email natpcertification@dhs.arkansas.gov or visit Arkansas Department of Human Services - DPSQA. Billie Kaiser at Billie.Kaiser@dhs.arkansas.gov. Below is an example of the form for reference purposes only.

Arkansas Department of Human Services
Division of Medical Services Office of Long Term Care
P.O. Box 8059, Mail Slot S405 Little Rock, AR 72203-8059
NURSING ASSISTANT TRAINING COST REIMBURSEMENT CLAIM FORM

INVOICE DATE: _____
MM/DD/YYYY (last day of the month)

DATE OF SERVICE: _____ MM/YYYY

AASIS Vendor Number: _____

Name of Facility: _____

Address: _____

Number of Residents: _____ Medicaid _____ Private _____ Medicare _____ Other _____

~~Number of Students that Completed Training: _____~~ **Attach the following documents for each student being claimed:**

1. ~~State Criminal Background Determination Letter from OLTC~~

2. ~~Completion of Training Certificate~~

EXPENSE TRAINING COST

1. ~~NA Transportation Expense~~ \$ _____

2. ~~Books~~ \$ _____

3. ~~Instructional Equipment~~ \$ _____

4. ~~Instructional Videos~~ \$ _____

5. ~~Other Training Materials~~ \$ _____

6. ~~Training Space~~ \$ _____

7. ~~NA Instructor Wages~~ \$ _____

8. ~~NA Instructor Fringe Benefits~~ \$ _____

9. ~~Nursing Assistant Consultant Fees~~ \$ _____

10. ~~Consultant Reimbursable Expenses~~ \$ _____

11. ~~Instructor Workshop Fees~~ \$ _____

12. ~~Instructor Workshop Travel~~ \$ _____

13. ~~Nursing Assistant Tuition~~

(Amount paid to "outside" training course) \$ _____ Training Site(s): _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

_____ of _____ Students _____

Multiplied by Cap Amount: _____

Total Approved Cost: _____

Percent _____ Ratio: _____

Amount to be Reimbursed: _____

Pay: _____

Invoice Reference# _____

_____ NATP _____

Date: _____

Approved by: _____

TOTAL TRAINING EXPENSE \$ _____

Administrator Signature _____

Date of Signature _____

DMS-755 (Revised 07/11)

Marki-UP

~~Nursing Assistant Training Costs Reimbursement Claim Form~~

~~PURPOSE OF FORM~~

~~The Nursing Assistant Training Costs Reimbursement Claim Form is used by nursing facilities to claim reimbursement for allowable nursing assistant training costs.~~

~~COMPLETION OF FORM~~

~~Month and Year Section:~~

~~Complete the invoice date section for the month and year in which expenses are being claimed. Use the last day of the month as the invoice date. Use the month and year for the service date.~~

~~Name and Address of Facility Section:~~

~~Contact this office if the facility name or address has changed.~~

~~Number of Residents Section:~~

- ~~1. _____ Provide the total number of residents on the last day of the month.~~
- ~~2. _____ Provide the number of residents covered by or eligible for Medicaid (or pending Medicaid) as of the last day of the month.~~
- ~~3. _____ Provide the number of residents whose care was paid for privately or by private insurance, etc. as of the last day of the month.~~
- ~~4. _____ Provide the number of residents whose care was paid for by Medicare as of the last day of the month. (Medicare certified facilities only).~~
- ~~5. _____ Provide the number of residents that do not fall into the previous categories as of the last day of the month.~~

~~Number of Students that Completed Training Section:~~

~~Provide the number of students that completed the nursing assistant training course. Do not include any students that failed to pass or complete the training.~~

~~You must provide a copy of the State Criminal Background Determination letter from OLTC and a copy of the Completion of Training Certificate for each student being claimed.~~

~~Expense and Training Cost Section:~~

~~Complete by line the dollar and cent amount of cost for each expense category. Complete the Total Training Expense.~~

~~For item #13, list the non-facility training program that provide training during the month and the tuition costs paid on behalf of the new trainees. If more than one approved non-facility training program was used by the facility, list all programs.~~

~~Refer to the Nursing Assistant Training Cost Reimbursement policy, Section X of the Rules for the Arkansas Long Term Care Nursing Assistant Training Program for details concerning allowable cost items.~~

~~Administrator Signature and Date of Signature Section:~~

~~The reimbursement claim for monthly nursing assistant training program costs must be signed by the Nursing Facility Administrator for the facility. The date of the signature is the date the claim form is signed (claims may not be submitted earlier than the first day of the month following the expense month).~~

~~Leave the For Office Use Only Section blank.~~

~~Submit original form and signature. Copies are not acceptable. Route completed forms to:~~

Department of Human Services Office of Long Term Care
P.O. Box 8059, Mail Slot S405 Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-8059

Mark-UP

**ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF MEDICAL SERVICES
OFFICE OF LONG TERM CARE
NURSING ASSISTANT TRAINING PROGRAM**

SLOT S405

P. O. BOX 8059 LITTLE ROCK, AR 72203-8059

Telephone: 501-320-6276 Fax: 501-682-8551 TDD: 501-682-6789

Website: <http://humanservices.arkansas.gov/dms/Pages/olteHome.aspx>

**NURSING ASSISTANT TRAINING PROGRAM (NATP)
APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

1. ~~Review Rules for the Arkansas Long Term Care Facility Nursing Assistant Training Program. Pay special attention to Section IV. B. Implementation Requirements, C. Nursing Assistant Trainee Activities, and Section V.~~
2. ~~Respond to all application items in compliance with the standards (above) and as required within instructions for each item.~~
3. ~~Obtain agreements from any and all nursing facilities that will be used as clinical training or testing sites and attach a copy of each agreement. Agreements must either (a) be current, i.e. signed by facility authority within the past six months, or (b) specify the time period for which the agreement is valid. Facility authority is the facility administrator or corporate officer who is a designated authority.~~
4. ~~Mail application with original notarized signatures along with attachments to:
Arkansas Department of Human Services Division of Medical Services
Office of Long Term Care
Nursing Assistant Training Program Slot S405
P.O. Box 8059
Little Rock, AR 72203-8059~~

You Need to Know:

- ~~• Incomplete applications will be returned, which will delay the approval of your program~~
- ~~• If the application contains errors or discrepancies, you will be notified within 15 days of Department's receipt of the application and you will be given an opportunity to make corrections. This may delay the date of approval of your program.~~
- ~~• You should allow AT LEAST 20 DAYS from the date you mail your application before inquiring about the status of the application.~~
- ~~• Training shall not be conducted until approval for instructors, classrooms and/or clinical sites has been received by the training program.~~
- ~~• Programs offered in or by nursing facilities that have been subject to one or more of the following actions will not be approved as per Arkansas Code 20-70-04 et seq.:~~
 - ~~(1) Waiver for nurse staffing requirements in excess of 48 hours during the week;~~
 - ~~(2) Extended or partial extended survey*;~~
 - ~~(3) Assessment of civil money penalty in excess of \$5000;~~
 - ~~(4) Denial of payment for new admissions for Medicare/Medicaid;~~
 - ~~(5) Appointment of temporary management;~~
 - ~~(6) Transfer of residents;~~
 - ~~(7) Termination from Medicare/Medicaid;~~
 - ~~(8) Closure of facility.~~
- ~~* Extended survey is defined for this provision as a survey that includes a review of facility policy and procedures pertinent to Level A deficiencies in Resident Rights, Resident Behavior and Facility Practices, Quality of Life, or Quality of Care. Partial extended survey is defined as a survey conducted as a result of a deficiency in Level A requirements other than those listed above in the extended survey definition.~~
- ~~• Nursing facilities that are prohibited due to one of the actions above will not be approved as a clinical training or testing site for any nursing assistant training program. Sanctioned nursing facilities may apply for a training waiver by submitting a written request to this office.~~
- ~~• Public training programs MUST contact the Arkansas State Board of Private Career Education, 501 Woodlane, Suite 312S, Little Rock, AR 72201, 501-683-8000, to apply for a license to operate a proprietary educational program in Arkansas.~~

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF MEDICAL SERVICES
OFFICE OF LONG TERM CARE
NURSING ASSISTANT TRAINING PROGRAM
SLOT S405

P. O. BOX 8059 LITTLE ROCK, AR 72203-8059
Telephone: 501-320-6276 Fax: 501-682-8551 TDD: 501-682-6789
Website: <http://humanservices.arkansas.gov/dms/Pages/oltcHome.aspx>

APPLICATION FOR NURSING ASSISTANT TRAINING PROGRAM

1.	Enter Nursing Assistant Training Program Name:		
	If the name of the Nursing Assistant Training Program has changed, enter the new name here:		
2.	Check application type:		
	NEW	Check NEW for initial application or if program is not currently approved.	
	RENEWAL NATP Code #	Check RENEWAL if program is currently approved and you have received ADHS Renewal notice.	
	CHANGE NATP Code #	Check CHANGE if program is currently approved and you are requesting approval for program changes. Complete entries for all items that have changed & certify changes by signature in Block #10 of this application.	
3.	Check Program Category:		
	Non-facility-based program (not offered in or by a facility)		
	Facility-based program (offered in and by a facility)		
	<i>Note: Applications under Arkansas Code 20-10-701 et seq. may not be completed by the facility that has been prohibited from training. The Department shall not approve a program offered by or in a nursing facility which, in the previous two years: a) has operated under a waiver of the nurse staffing requirements in excess of 48 hours during the week; b) has been subject to an extended (or partial-extended) survey; or c) has been subject to a civil money penalty of not less than \$5,000, denial of payment, appointment of temporary management, closure, or transfer of residents.</i>		
4.	Primary Instructor Name:		E-Mail Address:
	Arkansas R.N. License Number:		Social Security Number:
Yes	No	Check responses to the following questions about the Primary Instructor:	
		a. Does the Primary Instructor have at least two (2) years of nursing experience?	
		b. Is at least one (1) year of the required nursing experience in the provision of long-term care facility services in a nursing facility or skilled nursing facility?	
		c. Has the Primary Instructor completed a course in teaching adults or have experience in teaching adults or supervising Nursing Assistants?	

13	Contact/Mailing Address: Enter a single, physical address and telephone number for the training program. All correspondence from the Office of Long Term Care will be sent to this address and all on-site NATP surveys will be conducted at this address.			
	Street			
	City	ST	Zip Code	Phone ()

6.	Additional Instructor(s): List the name(s) and requested information below for individuals who will conduct the actual NATP training. Attach a copy of each instructor's current Arkansas nursing license.				
	Name:	Discipline:		Does Instructor have at least one (1) year of nursing experience in a long term care facility?	
		RN	LPN	Yes	No

7.	Classroom Location: Enter a single classroom name and location. Attach additional sheets as needed.			
	Name			
	Street			
	City	ST	Zip Code	Phone ()

8.	Please check responses to the following questions:		
	Yes	No	
			a. Does this program teach the Arkansas Curriculum for Nursing Assistants in Long Term Care Facilities?
			b. Does this program exceed both the curriculum content and minimum hours indicated above? If Yes, enter the number of hours offered: _____ Classroom: Clinical:
			c. Does this program have adequate textbooks, audio-visual materials and other supplies and equipment necessary for training?
			d. Do the classroom and skills training rooms provide for adequate space, cleanliness, safety, lighting and temperature controls to promote safe and effective learning?

9.	Clinical Training Site(s): In the space(s) provided below, list all certified nursing facilities that will be used for the required clinical training for the NATP. (Additional sites may be listed on a separate sheet).			
	a.	Facility Name		
		Street		
		City	ST	Zip Code
b.	Facility Name			
	Street			
	City	ST	Zip Code	Phone ()

	I certify that the information submitted in this application and attachments is true and correct. I agree to provide prior notification to the Office of Long-Term Care of any change in information presented in this application by submitting a Program Change Application as required. I acknowledge that failure to comply with Arkansas DHS Rules for the Arkansas Long Term Care Facility Nursing Assistant Training Program may result in withdrawal of NATP approval.
--	--

10.

Signature of Primary Instructor (MUST be signed before a notary).

(Notary Stamp/Seal):

Sworn and subscribed before me on this _____ day of _____, 20____

In _____ County, in the State of _____

Notary Signature: _____

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION OF MEDICAL SERVICES
OFFICE OF LONG TERM CARE NURSING ASSISTANT REGISTRY PO BOX 8059, SLOT S405 LITTLE ROCK, AR 72203-8059
Telephone: 501-320-6461 Fax: 501-682-8551 TDD: 501-682-6789
<http://humanservices.arkansas.gov/dms/Pages/oltcHome.aspx>
INTERSTATE TRANSFER FORM

SECTION A TO BE COMPLETED BY THE NURSING ASSISTANT			
Name:			
Last Address:	First	Initial	Maiden
Street Address or PO Box			Apt Number
City	State		Zip
Email Address		Telephone Number	
Social Security Number		Date of Birth	
Attach a copy of your Driver's License or State Issued ID Attach a copy of your Social Security Card Attach a copy of your Nursing Assistant Certificate OR Training Certificate of Completion OR Nursing School Transcript			
FAILURE TO ATTACH THE ABOVE DOCUMENTS WILL RESULT IN PROCESSING DELAYS AND/OR DENIAL OF TRANSFER INTO ARKANSAS			

STOP! DO NOT COMPLETE SECTION B OR THE APPLICATION WILL BE RETURNED TO YOU!

SECTION B TO BE COMPLETED BY THE STATE OF ARKANSAS			
<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> Transferring From _____ Date originally placed on Registry _____ Expiration Date (if any) _____ Disciplinary Action _____ Status of Certificate <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Are there any findings of abuse, neglect or misappropriation? Yes _____ No _____ Active Is the individual disqualified due to criminal record check? Yes _____ No _____ Inactive _____			
<input type="checkbox"/> Nursing Student	Found on Nursys? Yes _____ No _____	AR NAR status: <input type="checkbox"/> Current on NAR <input type="checkbox"/> Did on NAR <input type="checkbox"/> Not found <input type="checkbox"/> Expired on NAR	Permission to test:
<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> AR NAR Signature-Date <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin-top: 20px;"></div> AR NAR Title			AR NAR Decision Regarding Transfer Accepted-Denied Reason:

Marki-UP

State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: S1/19/21 S1/26/21*
93rd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2021

A Bill

SENATE BILL 78

By: Senators Hill, D. Wallace, T. Garner, Irvin, J. Hendren, J. English, Flippo
By: Representatives Lynch, Cozart, Brown, Evans

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE ARKANSAS OCCUPATIONAL
LICENSING OF UNIFORMED SERVICE MEMBERS, VETERANS, AND
SPOUSES ACT OF 2021; TO MODIFY THE AUTOMATIC
OCCUPATIONAL LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR UNIFORMED
SERVICES MEMBERS, RETURNING UNIFORMED SERVICES
VETERANS, AND THEIR SPOUSES; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO ESTABLISH ARKANSAS OCCUPATIONAL
LICENSING OF UNIFORMED SERVICE MEMBERS,
VETERANS, AND SPOUSES ACT OF 2021; AND TO
DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 17-1-106 is repealed.

~~17-1-106. Automatic licensure for active duty service members,
returning military veterans, and spouses—Definitions.~~

~~(a) As used in this section:~~

~~(1) “Automatic licensure” means the granting of occupational
licensure without an individual’s having met occupational licensure
requirements provided under this title or by the rules of the occupational
licensing entity;~~

~~(2) “Occupational licensing entity” means an office, board,
commission, department, council, bureau, or other agency of state government~~



1 ~~having authority to license, certify, register, permit, or otherwise~~
2 ~~authorize an individual to engage in a particular occupation or profession;~~

3 ~~(3) "Occupational licensure" means a license, certificate,~~
4 ~~registration, permit, or other form of authorization required by law or rule~~
5 ~~that is required for an individual to engage in a particular occupation or~~
6 ~~profession; and~~

7 ~~(4) "Returning military veteran" means a former member of the~~
8 ~~United States Armed Forces who was discharged from active duty under~~
9 ~~circumstances other than dishonorable.~~

10 ~~(b)(1) An occupational licensing entity shall grant automatic~~
11 ~~licensure to engage in an occupation or profession to an individual who is~~
12 ~~the holder in good standing of a substantially equivalent occupational~~
13 ~~license issued by another state, territory, or district of the United States~~
14 ~~and is:~~

15 ~~(A) An active duty military service member stationed in~~
16 ~~the State of Arkansas;~~

17 ~~(B) A returning military veteran applying for licensure~~
18 ~~within one (1) year of his or her discharge from active duty; or~~

19 ~~(C) The spouse of a person under subdivisions (b)(1)(A)~~
20 ~~and (b)(1)(B) of this section.~~

21 ~~(2) However, an occupational licensing entity shall be required~~
22 ~~to provide automatic licensure if the proposed rules are not approved as~~
23 ~~required under subdivision (d)(2) of this section.~~

24 ~~(c) An occupational licensing entity may submit proposed rules~~
25 ~~recommending an expedited process and procedure for occupational licensure~~
26 ~~instead of automatic licensure as provided under subsection (b) of this~~
27 ~~section to the Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the Legislative Council.~~

28 ~~(d) The Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the Legislative Council~~
29 ~~shall:~~

30 ~~(1) Review the proposed rules of an occupational licensing~~
31 ~~entity as submitted for public comment and at least thirty (30) days before~~
32 ~~the public comment period ends under the Arkansas Administrative Procedure~~
33 ~~Act, § 25-15-201 et seq.; and~~

34 ~~(2) Approve the proposed rules submitted under subsection (c) of~~
35 ~~this section based on:~~

36 ~~(A) A determination of whether the expedited process and~~

~~procedure provide the least restrictive means of accomplishing occupational licensure; and~~

~~(B) Any other criteria the Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the Legislative Council determines necessary to achieve the objectives of this section.~~

~~(c) The Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the Legislative Council may:~~

~~(1) Establish a subcommittee to assist in the duties assigned under this section;~~

~~(2) Assign information filed with the Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the Legislative Council under this section to one (1) or more subcommittees of the Legislative Council, including without limitation a subcommittee created under subdivision (c)(1) of this section; or~~

~~(3) Delegate its duties under this section to one (1) or more subcommittees of the Legislative Council, subject to final review and approval of the Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the Legislative Council.~~

~~(f) An occupational licensing entity shall:~~

~~(1) Submit proposed rules authorized under subsection (c) of this section to the Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the Legislative Council for review and approval before the proposed rules are promulgated under the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act, § 25-15-201 et seq.; and~~

~~(2) Provide to the House Committee on Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative and Military Affairs an annual report stating the number of automatic licenses and expedited occupational licenses granted under this section to:~~

~~(A) Active duty military service members stationed in the State of Arkansas;~~

~~(B) Returning military veterans applying within one (1) year of their discharge from active duty; or~~

~~(C) The spouse of a person under subdivisions (f)(2)(A) and (f)(2)(B) of this section.~~

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 17, Chapter 1, is amended to add an additional chapter to read as follows:

Chapter 4 – Arkansas Occupational Licensing of Uniformed Service Members, Veterans, and Spouses Act of 2021

1
2 17-4-101. Title.

3 This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Arkansas
4 Occupational Licensing of Uniformed Service Members, Veterans, and Spouses
5 Act of 2021".
6

7 17-4-102. Legislative findings and intent.

8 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

9 (1) Arkansas sets the bar as a national leader in addressing
10 employment barriers faced by uniformed service members, uniformed service
11 veterans, and their spouses in attaining occupational licensure;

12 (2) Arkansas is one (1) of only four (4) states to successfully
13 address eight (8) or more of the ten (10) issues affecting uniformed service
14 families identified by the United States Department of Defense;

15 (3) Of the United States Department of Defense's ten (10) issues
16 in fiscal year 2020, four (4) of the issues concern occupational licensure of
17 spouses of uniformed service members;

18 (4) Annually, fourteen and a half percent (14.5%) of spouses of
19 uniformed service members move across state lines as opposed to one and one-
20 tenth percent (1.1%) of civilians;

21 (5) States can continue to improve the attainment of
22 occupational licensure and to eliminate barriers impeding employment of
23 spouses of uniformed service members following a move across state lines;

24 (6) Acts 2019, No. 820, established provisions for the granting
25 of automatic occupational licensure or expedited occupational licensure to
26 active-duty service members, recently separated veterans, and their spouses
27 who hold occupational licensure in good standing in another jurisdiction; and

28 (7) Additional steps need to be taken to clarify, simplify, and
29 elevate the occupational licensure process for uniformed service members,
30 uniformed service veterans, and their spouses.

31 (b) It is the intent of the General Assembly to address occupational
32 licensure barriers that impede the launch and sustainability of civilian
33 occupational careers and employment faced by uniformed service members,
34 uniformed service veterans, and their spouses due to frequent uniformed
35 service assignment by:

36 (1) Providing:

1 (A) Automatic occupational licensure or expedited
2 occupational licensure to current license holders to expedite their entry
3 into the workforce of this state;

4 (B) Temporary or provisional licensure to initial
5 licensure candidates while expediting full licensure;

6 (C) Legislative oversight of rulemaking by occupational
7 licensing entities to ensure removal of occupational licensure barriers faced
8 by uniformed service members, uniformed service veterans, and their spouses;
9 and

10 (D) Guidance to assure effective rulemaking and clear
11 license application instructions to uniformed service members, uniformed
12 service veterans, and their spouses;

13 (2) Recognizing uniformed service education, training,
14 experience, and credentials of uniformed service members and uniformed
15 service veterans applying for initial occupational licensure; and

16 (3) Extending licensure expiration and any continuing education
17 required for occupational licensure renewal when a uniformed service member
18 is deployed.

19
20 17-4-103. Definitions.

21 As used in this chapter:

22 (1) "Automatic occupational licensure" means the granting of
23 occupational licensure without an individual's having met occupational
24 licensure requirements provided under this title or by the rules of the
25 relevant occupational licensing entity;

26 (2) "Occupational licensing entity" means an office, board,
27 commission, department, council, bureau, or other agency of state government
28 having authority to license, certify, register, permit, or otherwise
29 authorize an individual to engage in a particular occupation or profession,
30 not including occupations or professions within the judicial branch of
31 government or occupations or professions subject to the superintending
32 control of the Supreme Court;

33 (3) "Occupational licensure" means a license, certificate,
34 registration, permit, or other form of authorization required by law or rule
35 that is required for an individual to engage in a particular occupation or
36 profession;

1 (4) "Uniformed service member" means:

2 (A) An active or reserve component member of the United
3 States Air Force, United States Army, United States Coast Guard, United
4 States Marine Corps, United States Navy, United States Space Force, or
5 National Guard;

6 (B) An active component member of the National Oceanic and
7 Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps; or

8 (C) An active or reserve component member of the United
9 States Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service; and

10 (5) "Uniformed service veteran" means a former member of the
11 United States uniformed services discharged under conditions other than
12 dishonorable.

13
14 17-4-104. Applicability.

15 Unless otherwise stated in this chapter, this chapter applies to:

16 (1) A uniformed service member stationed in the State of
17 Arkansas;

18 (2) A uniformed service veteran who resides in or establishes
19 residency in the State of Arkansas; and

20 (3) The spouse of:

21 (A) A person listed in subdivision (1) or (2) of this
22 section;

23 (B) A uniformed service member who is assigned a tour of
24 duty that excludes the uniformed service member's spouse from accompanying
25 the uniformed service member and the spouse relocates to this state; and

26 (C) A uniformed service member who is killed or succumbs
27 to his or her injuries or illness in the line of duty if the spouse
28 establishes residency in the state.

29
30 17-4-105. Automatic occupational licensure.

31 An occupational licensing entity shall grant automatic occupational
32 licensure to engage in an occupation or profession to an individual who is:

33 (1) Listed in § 17-4-104; and

34 (2) The holder in good standing of occupational licensure with
35 similar scope of practice issued by another state, territory, or district of
36 the United States.

17-4-106. Expedited occupational licensure.

(a)(1) An occupational licensing entity may submit proposed rules recommending an expedited process for the attainment of occupational licensure instead of automatic occupational licensure as provided under § 17-4-105 to the Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the Legislative Council.

(2) The proposed rules described in subdivision (a)(1) of this section shall include temporary or provisional occupational licensure provisions with a term of ninety (90) days or more.

(3) The occupational licensing entity shall provide automatic occupational licensure if the proposed expedited occupational licensure rules are not approved as required by § 17-4-109.

(b)(1) An occupational licensing entity shall expedite the process for initial occupational licensure for an individual who is listed in § 17-4-104.

(2) An occupational licensing entity shall provide the applicant under subdivision (b)(1) of this section with a temporary or provisional license upon receipt of required documentation or the successful completion of any examination required by the relevant occupational licensing entity to enable the applicant to secure employment in his or her occupation or profession.

17-4-107. Acceptance of uniformed service education, training, experience, or service-issued credential.

An occupational licensing entity shall accept relevant and applicable uniformed service education, training, or service-issued credential toward occupational licensure qualifications or requirements when considering an application for initial licensure of an individual who is:

(1) A uniformed service member; or

(2) A uniformed service veteran who makes an application within one (1) year of his or her discharge from uniformed service.

17-4-108. Extension of license expiration and continuing education requirements.

(a) An occupational licensing entity shall extend the expiration date of an occupational licensure for a deployed uniformed service member or his or her spouse for one hundred eighty (180) days following the date of the

1 uniformed service member's return from deployment.

2 (b)(1) An occupational licensing entity shall allow a full or partial
3 exemption from a continuing education requirement that is required as a
4 component of occupational licensure for an individual who is listed in
5 subsection (a) of this section until one hundred eighty (180) days following
6 the date of the uniformed service member's return from deployment.

7 (2) An occupational licensing entity that allows full or partial
8 exemption from continuing education requirements may require evidence of
9 completion of continuing education before granting a subsequent occupational
10 licensure or authorizing the renewal of an occupational licensure.

11
12 17-4-109. Legislative oversight of rules.

13 (a) The Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the Legislative Council
14 shall:

15 (1) Review the proposed rules of an occupational licensing
16 entity as submitted for public comment at least thirty (30) days before the
17 public comment period ends under the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act, §
18 25-15-201 et seq.; and

19 (2) Approve the proposed rules submitted under § 17-4-106 based
20 on:

21 (A) A determination of whether the expedited process
22 provides the least restrictive means of attaining occupational licensure; and

23 (B) Any other criteria the Administrative Rules
24 Subcommittee of the Legislative Council determines necessary to achieve the
25 objectives of this section.

26 (b) The Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the Legislative Council
27 may:

28 (1) Establish a further subcommittee to assist in the duties
29 assigned to the Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the Legislative Council
30 under this section;

31 (2) Assign information filed with the Administrative Rules
32 Subcommittee of the Legislative Council under this section to one (1) or more
33 subcommittees of the Legislative Council, including without limitation a
34 subcommittee created under subdivision (b)(1) of this section; or

35 (3) Delegate the duties of the Administrative Rules Subcommittee
36 of the Legislative Council under this section to one (1) or more

1 subcommittees of the Legislative Council, which shall be subject to the final
2 review and approval of the Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the
3 Legislative Council.

4
5 17-4-110. Responsibilities of occupational licensing entities.

6 An occupational licensing entity shall:

7 (1) Submit proposed rules authorized under § 17-4-106 to the
8 Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the Legislative Council for review and
9 approval before the proposed rules are promulgated under the Arkansas
10 Administrative Procedure Act, § 25-15-201 et seq.;

11 (2) If the proposed rules are not approved as required under §
12 17-4-109, provide automatic occupational licensure to an individual listed in
13 § 17-4-104;

14 (3) Post prominently on the occupational licensing entity's
15 website a link entitled "Military Member Licensure" that directly leads to
16 information applicable to an individual listed in § 17-4-104; and

17 (4) Provide to the House Committee on Aging, Children and Youth,
18 Legislative and Military Affairs an annual report stating the number of
19 individuals granted automatic occupational licensure and expedited
20 occupational licensure under this chapter.

21
22 SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
23 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that current laws and
24 administrative rules regarding the issuance of occupational licenses,
25 certificates, and permits are barriers and create a hardship for uniformed
26 service members, uniformed service veterans, and their spouses; that
27 additional expedited processes, automatic licensure, and extended expiration
28 dates of occupational licenses, certificates, and permits is needed to ensure
29 that uniformed service members, uniformed service veterans, and their spouses
30 may practice their chosen occupation or profession in the State of Arkansas;
31 and that this act is immediately necessary to remove barriers and hardships
32 in obtaining occupational licenses, certificates, and permits for uniformed
33 service members, uniformed service veterans, and their spouses. Therefore, an
34 emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for
35 the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become
36 effective on:

1 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

2 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
3 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
4 bill; or

5 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
6 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

7
8
9 */s/Hill*

10
11
12 **APPROVED: 2/23/21**
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36