

State of Arkansas  
76th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 1987  
By: Senator Kinard

SENATE BILL 244

"AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A NURSING HOME AIDE TRAINING PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES; TO REQUIRE LONG TERM CARE FACILITIES TO HIRE ONLY LICENSED AIDES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

SECTION 1. As used herein, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(A) "Aide-in-training" means a person employed by a licensed long term care facility who has applied for a license as a nursing home aide but has not met the qualifications established by the Office of Long Term Care.

(B) "Office" means the Office of Long Term Care of the Division of Economic and Medical Services of the Department of Human Services.

(C) "Nursing home aide" means an employee of a long term care facility whose duties include the provision of personal care and such duties as the office may determine through regulation to residents or clients of that facility.

(D) "Long term care facility" means a nursing home, residential care facility, an adult day care facility, or any other facility which provides long term medical or personal care.

SECTION 2. The Office of Long Term Care of the Division of Economic and Medical Services of the Department of Human Services is hereby authorized and empowered to prescribe minimum qualifications for nursing home aides and to license persons as nursing home aides who make application for licensure and meet the minimum qualifications prescribed by rule and regulations promulgated pursuant to this Act.

SECTION 3. No later than January 1, 1988, the Office of Long Term Care shall develop a training program to be completed by applicants for licensure as nursing home aides.

SECTION 4. After January 1, 1988, all persons employed by licensed long term care facilities as nursing home aides shall apply for licensure to the Office of Long Term Care of the Division of Economic and Medical Services of the Department of Human Services. Each applicant shall complete a training program as prescribed by the Office within six months of the date of application for licensure. The applicant shall be considered an aide-in-training for a maximum of six months only.

SECTION 5. After July 1, 1988, only licensed nursing home aides or aides-in-training shall be employed by licensed long term care facilities in the State of Arkansas.

