



Senate Bill 614: Michigan Medical Nutrition Therapy Practice

THE ISSUE

- Michigan is one of two states that does not have statutory provisions regulating the practice of medical nutrition therapy and/or associated titles used by practitioners, such as “dietitian” and “nutritionist.”
- With a licensure agreement recently reached in New Jersey law, dietitians and nutritionists in Michigan have come together to propose a new law that provides for the clear licensure of medical nutrition therapy.

WHAT IT WOULD DO

- This legislation would provide for the licensure of both dietitian nutritionists (registered dietitians) and advanced practice nutritionists as qualified nutrition professionals with the knowledge, skills and competency necessary to provide evidence-based, safe and effective medical nutrition therapy or nutrition care services for the treatment or management of an individual’s disease or medical condition.
- It will protect the public from harm by reducing confusion and increasing consumer confidence in the qualifications of providers of medical nutrition therapy.
- Licensed dietitian nutritionists would be required to have a bachelor’s, master’s or doctoral degree from an Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND)-accredited program, complete 1,000 hours of ACEND-accredited supervised clinical training and pass the Commission on Dietetic Registration’s registration exam for dietitian nutritionists in order to be licensed.
- Licensed nutritionists would be required to have a master’s or doctoral degree meeting high objective standards ensuring competence in medical nutrition therapy, complete 1,000 hours of supervised practice under qualified supervisors and pass an exam accredited by the National Commission on Certifying Agencies, such as the examination administered by the Board for Certification of Nutrition Specialists in order to be licensed.
- The bill does not impact or affect those providing basic nutrition services that do not include medical nutrition therapy. For example, personal trainers, health food stores, weight loss programs, and other individuals could continue to provide information on personal experiences with dietary and nutritional choices, healthy eating, established requirements for essential nutrients, and nutrients contained in foods and supplements as well as discuss essential nutrients required by the body, provide weight control services and demonstrate how to cook food.
- The legislation is modeled after New Jersey’s, North Carolina’s and North Dakota’s licensure laws, which received broad support from a wide range of stakeholders.