

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: June 18, 2008  
POSITION: Neutral  
SPONSOR: Grace Home

BILL NUMBER: SB 1268  
AUTHOR: J. Denham

**BILL SUMMARY: Nursing Home Administrators**

This bill would allow the Department of Public Health (DPH) to waive, until January 1, 2025, the educational requirements for an applicant for the nursing home administrator (NHA) licensing examination and Administrator-in-Training (AIT) Program if that applicant is a member of a recognized church or religious denomination that owns and operates a faith-based skilled nursing facility (SNF), and whose teachings historically prohibit the acquisition of the formal education that is otherwise required to qualify for the AIT Program and licensing examination. This bill would require all applicants qualifying for a waiver to possess at least an accredited high school diploma or equivalent to qualify for the AIT Program and the licensing examination. This bill also would stipulate that such applicants, upon completing the AIT Program and successfully passing the licensing examinations, may only serve as an NHA in a facility that is owned and operated by the applicant’s church or religious denomination.

This bill also would delete the requirement that applicants for the NHA licensing examination who have a doctorate degree in medicine also possess 10 years of recent work experience in addition to completion of an approved AIT program.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

According to the DPH, this bill would have no fiscal impact.

**COMMENTS**

The Department of Finance is neutral with respect to this bill. The DPH indicates that the proposed statutory changes would not result in additional costs to the state and NHA licensing examination fees.

The author’s office states that this bill is needed to assist Grace Home – a Mennonite faith-based skilled nursing facility (SNF) – in replacing its retiring NHA. Current law requires applicants for the NHA licensing examination to possess a bachelor’s degree, at a minimum. While the Mennonite church has a well-established position on obtaining solid basic education, its members generally do not acquire a bachelor’s degree unless absolutely necessary – few Mennonites in the country have a bachelor’s degree, and of those who do, none are candidates to fill the pending Grace Home vacancy. Applicants who are granted an educational waiver under the provisions of this bill would still be required to complete 1,000 hours in the AIT program and pass the licensing exam.

According to the DPH, establishing a sunset date of January 1, 2025, for the educational waiver process is necessary as eventually, all states will minimally require a bachelor’s degree. This bill would enable Grace Home and any other eligible church-owned and operated SNFs to meet their immediate need for an NHA while also providing sufficient time to prepare to meet licensing requirements without the benefit of the educational waiver.

This bill’s provision to delete the requirement that licensing examination applicants who possess a doctorate degree in medicine also possess 10 years of recent work experience is appropriate, considering that applicants possessing only a bachelor’s degree are not currently required to have any work experience.

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Analyst/Principal (0553) J. Kapoor	Date	Program Budget Manager Michael Wilkening	Date
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Department Deputy Director	Date
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Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____
			Position Disapproved _____

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**BILL ANALYSIS** Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)

**BILL ANALYSIS/ENROLLED BILL REPORT--(CONTINUED)**

**Form DF-43  
BILL NUMBER**

**AUTHOR**

**AMENDMENT DATE**

J. Denham

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SB 1268

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)							Fund Code
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)							
	CO	PROP							
	RV	98	FC	2008-2009	FC	2009-2010	FC	2010-2011	
4265/PublicHealth	SO	No		----- No/Minor Fiscal Impact -----					0260
<u>Fund Code</u>	<u>Title</u>								
0260	Nursing Home Admin St Lic Exam Fund								