



NEWS RELEASE

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State Department of Health Takes Over Regulation of the Nurse Aide Registry *Changes To the Registry Took Effect July 1, 2011*

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health is taking over the regulation and registration of some specific categories of nurse aide registrants starting July 1, 2011. The changes are a result of House Bill 1041, which was passed by the 2011 Legislative Assembly.

As a result of the changes, nurse aides, home health aides, and medication assistants I and II will move from the Board of Nursing's registry to the Department of Health's Nurse Aide Registry. The department will be responsible for the training, competency evaluation, and registration of these groups.

During the 2009 Legislative Assembly, House Bill 1269 directed a study of the steps necessary to enable the Department of Health to administer the registry and to examine the feasibility of one registry and a location for that registry. The study resulted from a need identified by the long-term care industry to have one location to check the registry status of nurse aides in North Dakota. At the request of the Long Term Care Interim Committee, the Department of Health convened a workgroup to study the issue. The transfer of these groups to the Department of Health's registry was a recommendation from that workgroup.

Any initial or renewal applications submitted for nurse aides, home health aides or medication assistants I and II after July 1, 2011, must be submitted to the North Dakota Department of Health, Division of Health Facilities. Applications for re-approval for medication assistants I and II programs also must now be submitted to the Department of Health.

For more information about the registry, contact the North Dakota Department of Health, Division of Health Facilities, at 701.328.2353.

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