

Proponent Testimony on HB 2746
House Health & Human Services Committee
February 13, 2024

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for holding a hearing and allowing us an opportunity to provide proponent testimony on HB 2746 which updates educational requirements to the dietitians licensing act. Dietitians are one of seven professions licensed by Kansas Department for Aging & Disability Services (KDADS) Health Occupations Credentialing.

For initial KS Licensure for a Dietitian, an applicant is required to complete the Initial Dietitian Application, pay \$140.00 application fee, and submit the following supporting documents: official college transcripts reflecting required degree and field. Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) exam/score, and verification of internship/supervise practice. A copy of CDR card will suffice and be used as replacement and proof of passing the CDR exam and completed internship/supervised practice hours. A completed application normally is processed for approval within 3-5 business days. There are roughly 1,375 active KS Dietitian licensees.

After successfully completing eligibility requirements and being validated by Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR), individuals are eligible to take the registration examination for dietitians. Passing of the CDR exam, the individual would be considered nationally as a Registered Dietitian (RD) or Register Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN). To be licensed to practice as a Dietitian in KS, an individual must apply for a KS Dietitian License and follow steps mention in the above paragraph.

Beginning January 1, 2024, educational requirements for dietitians will be changed from bachelor's degree to graduate level per the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. The change in education requirements also affects eligibility to take the registration examination for dietitians Additionally, current statute requires 900 hours of supervised practice while the new national standards increased that to 1,000 hours. [KSA 65-5906](#) needs to be updated in accordance with the changes by the national credentialing body.

HB 2746 contains several other clean-up items such as removing references to mailing applications as they are now e-mailed. And also, to change reference from "License Dietitian" to also include allowable title "License Dietician Nutrition" which is again in line with national standards.

The proposed changes would have no fiscal impact on the. Kansas accredited institutes that offer a Dietitian program have already changed their education/training requirements in the Spring of 2023. HB 2746 simply aligns Kansas statute with industry-led updates to educational requirements.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this information and I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.

Respectfully,

Lacey Hunter
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Kansas Department for Aging & Disability Services