

Testimony
Study of Registration of Long-Term Care Professionals
Long-Term Care Committee
Wednesday, July 14, 2010 – 11:30 a.m.
North Dakota Department of Health

Good morning, Chairman Kreidt and members of the Long-Term Care Committee. My name is Darleen Bartz, Ph.D., and I am section chief of the Health Resources Section of the North Dakota Department of Health. I am here today to provide comments about the proposed bill draft incorporating the statutory changes recommended by the Registration of Long-Term Care Professionals Workgroup. We received the bill draft on Monday of this week and have not had the opportunity to solicit comments from the workgroup.

The language in the bill appears to be similar to the language proposed by the workgroup, with the addition of wording indicating that the department may document the reason for termination of a nurse aide on the registry. This was discussed at your last committee meeting.

After reviewing information available, the Department of Health determined that 1.5 new FTEs would be needed to handle the additional workload related to the registry and regulation of the nurse aides, home health aides, and medication assistants I and II. This would include review of applications, complaint intake and investigation, and disciplinary actions as needed, and review and approval of medication assistant training programs. As this is a state activity, federal funds may not be used to cover the associated costs. In order to provide this service at no fee to the individuals, it would cost the department \$212,464 for the 2011-2013 biennium, plus additional one-time start-up costs of \$52,114 for Unlicensed Assistive Persons registry data migration to the Department of Health database, registry online access changes, and rulemaking, for a total of \$264,578.

I have attached the draft budget we previously submitted to the committee.

This concludes my testimony. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Proposed Biennial Budget

SALARIES AND WAGES	
FTE Employees (Number)	1.5
Salaries	\$128,668
Benefits	52,896
Total	\$181,564
OPERATING EXPENSES	
Travel	\$9,600
IT – Software/Supp (includes \$125/mo ITD costs for running application)	4,000
Supplies	4,000
Postage	800
Telephone/Communications	5,000
Training	2,000
Legal	4,000
IT Equip Under \$5,000	1,500
Total Operating	\$30,900
TOTAL BIENNIAL BUDGET	\$212,464
ADDITIONAL START-UP EXPENSES	
Rulemaking	\$5,000
ITD: Board of Nursing (BON) migration to access and CNA/BON Registry Web change and data migration	47,114
Total Additional Start-up Expenses	\$52,114
TOTAL BUDGET (2011-2013 Biennium)	\$264,578
General Fund	264,578
Federal Funds	0
Other Funds	0