

**ND Board of Examiners for Nursing Home Administrators**  
**Presentation to the Administrative Rules Committee**  
**December 5, 2022**

Chairman Pyle and members of the Administrative Rules Committee, I am Peggy Krikava, Executive Director for the ND Board of Examiners for Nursing Home Administrators. I am here today to review with you our proposed amendments to ND Administrative Code 55-02-01 “Nursing Home Administrator Licensure”. The changes we are proposing are included in the testimony provided for you. I will review with you the key proposed updates to the rules.

The board provides the following statements relating to the amendments to N.D.A.C. 55-02-01.

**Under 55-02-01-07. Requirements for initial licensure.** Items #3: We would like to retract the amendment of the one thousand hours. Please see the updated rules that were passed around. At our January 14, 2022 Board meeting, a motion was made and voted on to remove this amendment and further look into what is the best way to increase the hours to 1,000 hours, which is the National Standard, without creating a barrier for individuals wanting to go through the program or to become license in North Dakota through reciprocity. Increasing the hours to 1,000 will give new licensee’s a good foundation to ensure quality of care and public protection to the residents they serve. But at the same time, the Board recognized that moving the requirement up to 1,000 hours could create an unnecessary barrier to licensure, thus preventing us from granting a license to individuals who meet our current requirements. And with the current workforce shortage the Board decides to remove this proposed change so that it could take a more measured approach to increasing this hourly requirement. Currently, we specify the require hours of 480 in our policies and will look to

ways to take that more measured approach during our upcoming meetings. Presently, we have two AIT approved programs in North Dakota where one program is already requires the AIT to have 1,000 hours and the second program will be requiring the 1,000 hours as of January 1, 2023. Those Colleges and University's that are accredited by the National Association of Long Term Care Administrator Boards have a 1,000 practicum built into their Healthcare Administration Programs. We have not received any concerns from stakeholders on moving to 1,000 hours. But by not mandating the 1,000 hours in our rules, we can not only license applicants who complete these 1,000 programs, but we can also license applicants who have completed shorter programs—but who also have invaluable on-the-job experience working with administrators in nursing home settings.

**55-02-01-12. Continuing Education.** Item #3: We would like to request to remove the requirement that only 10 of the required 20 hours can come from online courses. Our intent for removing the limitation allows licensed administrators who are unable to attend conferences in-person to receive education online and renew their license and stay active. The online education still needs to come from a approved provider that insures quality education.

Item #4: We are proposing this item to give the Board the authority to make exceptions to continuing education requirements for circumstances beyond the administrator's reasonable control such as covid, military service and medical hardship.

This concludes the Board of Examiners for Nursing Home Administrators testimony. Your support of our amendment and these rules is appreciated. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you.

Testimony presented by: Peggy Krikava, Executive Director

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