

1 AN ACT concerning regulation.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Mental Health and Developmental
5 Disabilities Administrative Act is amended by adding Section
6 4.4 as follows:

7 (20 ILCS 1705/4.4 new)

8 Sec. 4.4. Direct support person credential pilot program.

9 (a) In this Section, "direct support person credential"
10 means a document issued to an individual by a recognized
11 accrediting body attesting that the individual has met the
12 professional requirements of the credentialing program by the
13 Division of Developmental Disabilities of the Department of
14 Human Services.

15 (b) The Division shall initiate a program to continue to
16 gain the expertise and knowledge of the developmental
17 disabilities workforce and of the developmental disabilities
18 workforce recruitment and retention needs throughout the
19 developmental disabilities field. The Division shall implement
20 a direct support person credential pilot program to assist and
21 attract persons into the field of direct support, advance
22 direct support as a career, and professionalize the field to
23 promote workforce recruitment and retention efforts, advanced

1 skills and competencies, and further ensure the health, safety,
2 and well-being of persons being served.

3 (c) The direct support person credential pilot program is
4 created within the Division to assist persons in the field of
5 developmental disabilities obtain a credential in their fields
6 of expertise.

7 (d) The pilot program shall be administered by the Division
8 for 3 years. The pilot program shall include providers,
9 licensed and certified by the Division or by the Department of
10 Public Health. The purpose of the pilot program is to assess
11 how the establishment of a State-accredited direct support
12 person credential:

13 (1) promotes recruitment and retention efforts in the
14 developmental disabilities field, notably the direct
15 support person position;

16 (2) enhances competence in the developmental
17 disabilities field;

18 (3) yields quality supports and services to persons
19 with developmental disabilities; and

20 (4) advances the health and safety requirements set
21 forth by the State.

22 (e) The Division, in administering the pilot program, shall
23 consider, but not be limited to, the following:

24 (1) best practices learning initiatives, including the
25 University of Minnesota's college of direct support and all
26 Illinois Department of Human Services-approved direct

1 support person competencies;

2 (2) national direct support professional and person
3 competencies or credentialing-based standards and
4 trainings;

5 (3) facilitating direct support person's portfolio
6 development;

7 (4) the role and value of skill mentors; and

8 (5) creating a career ladder.

9 (f) The Division shall produce a report detailing the
10 progress of the pilot program, including, but not limited to:

11 (1) the rate of recruitment and retention for direct
12 support persons of providers participating in the pilot
13 program compared to the rate for non-participating
14 providers;

15 (2) the number of direct support persons credentialed;
16 and

17 (3) the enhancement of quality supports and services to
18 persons with developmental disabilities.

19 Section 10. The MC/DD Act is amended by adding Section
20 3-206.005 as follows:

21 (210 ILCS 46/3-206.005 new)

22 Sec. 3-206.005. Certification status for certified nursing
23 assistants. A certified nursing assistant shall lose his or her
24 certification status if he or she goes 24 consecutive months

1 without performing nursing or nursing-related services for
2 pay. In this Section, "nursing or nursing-related services for
3 pay" includes work performed as a direct support professional
4 as it is defined in the Community Services Act.

5 Section 15. The ID/DD Community Care Act is amended by
6 adding Section 3-206.005 as follows:

7 (210 ILCS 47/3-206.005 new)

8 Sec. 3-206.005. Certification status for certified nursing
9 assistants. A certified nursing assistant shall lose his or her
10 certification status if he or she goes 24 consecutive months
11 without performing nursing or nursing-related services for
12 pay. In this Section, "nursing or nursing-related services for
13 pay" includes work performed as a direct support professional
14 as it is defined in the Community Services Act.

15 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
16 becoming law.