

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.