

**WEST VIRGINIA  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
NATALIE E. TENNANT  
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION**

Form #3

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2015 JUL 17 P 12:58

OFFICE WEST VIRGINIA  
SECRETARY OF STATE

**NOTICE OF AGENCY APPROVAL OF A PROPOSED RULE  
AND  
FILING WITH THE LEGISLATIVE RULE-MAKING REVIEW COMMITTEE**

AGENCY: Nursing Home Admin. Licensing Board TITLE NUMBER: 21

CITE AUTHORITY: 30-25-5

AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING RULE: YES  NO

IF YES, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING AMENDED: Series 1

TITLE OF RULE BEING AMENDED: Nursing Home Administrators

IF NO, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING PROPOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE OF RULE BEING PROPOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

THE ABOVE PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE RULE HAVING GONE TO A PUBLIC HEARING OR A PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD IS HEREBY APPROVED BY THE PROMULGATING AGENCY FOR FILING WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE LEGISLATIVE RULE-MAKING REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR THEIR REVIEW.

Vanessa S. Cummins, Exec. Dir.  
Authorized Signature

**QUESTIONNAIRE**

*(Please include a copy of this form with each filing of your rule: Notice of Public Hearing or Comment Period; Proposed Rule, and if needed, Emergency and Modified Rule.)*

DATE: 7/16/15

TO: LEGISLATIVE RULE-MAKING REVIEW COMMITTEE

FROM: *(Agency Name, Address & Phone No.)* Nursing Home Administrators Licensing Board PO Box 522

Winfield, WV 25213

304-586-4070

LEGISLATIVE RULE TITLE: Title 21 Nursing Home Administrators Series 1

1. Authorizing statute(s) citation 30-25-5

2. a. Date filed in State Register with Notice of Hearing or Public Comment Period:  
June 9, 2015/Public Comment

b. What other notice, including advertising, did you give of the hearing?  
NHALB Website Posted  
Healthcare Association Website  
Secretary of State Website

c. Date of Public Hearing(s) *or* Public Comment Period ended:  
July 10, 2015 4:30 p.m.

d. Attach list of persons who appeared at hearing, comments received, amendments, reasons for amendments.

Attached   x   No comments received

- e. Date you filed in State Register the agency approved proposed Legislative Rule following public hearing: (be exact)

7/16/15

- f. **Name, title, address and phone/fax/e-mail numbers** of agency person(s) to receive all *written correspondence* regarding this rule: (Please type)

Veronica S. Cummings, Executive Director

PO Box 522

Winfield, WV 25213

Phone: 304-586-4070 Fax: 304-586-4079

- g. **IF DIFFERENT FROM ITEM 'f'**, please give **Name, title, address and phone number(s)** of agency person(s) who wrote and/or has responsibility for the contents of this rule: (Please type)

3. If the statute under which you promulgated the submitted rules requires certain findings and determinations to be made as a condition precedent to their promulgation:

- a. Give the date upon which you filed in the State Register a notice of the time and place of a hearing for the taking of evidence and a general description of the issues to be decided.

b. Date of hearing or comment period:

June 9, 2015 to July 10, 2015 Comment Period

c. On what date did you file in the State Register the findings and determinations required together with the reasons therefor?

\_\_\_\_\_

d. Attach findings and determinations and reasons:

Attached \_\_\_\_\_

- 3. **Explanation of above estimates (including long-range effect):**  
Please include any increase or decrease in fees in your estimated total revenues.

There will be no increase or decrease in fees. The amended proposal will enable applicants to become licensed sooner if they were an AIT (Administrator-In-Training) or held an emergency permit.

**MEMORANDUM**

Please identify any areas of vagueness, technical defects, reasons the proposed rule would not have a fiscal impact, and/or any special issues not captured elsewhere on this form.

Date: 6/9/15

Signature of Agency Head or Authorized Representative

Veronica S Cummings

Rule Title: Title 21 Series 1

Type of Rule:  Legislative  Interpretive  Procedural

Agency: Nursing Home Administrators Licensing Board

Address: PO Box 522  
Winfield, WV 25213

Phone Number: (304)586-4070 Email: veronica.s.cummings@wv.gov

**Fiscal Note Summary**

Summarize in a clear and concise manner what impact this measure will have on costs and revenues of state government.

The proposed rule change will not have an impact on costs and revenue of state government.

**Fiscal Note Detail**

Show over-all effect in Item 1 and 2 and, in Item 3, give an explanation of Breakdown by fiscal year, including long-range effect.

| FISCAL YEAR                        |   |                                      |   |
|------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| Effect of Proposal                 | Current Increase/Decrease<br>(use "--") | Next Increase/Decrease<br>(use "--") | Fiscal Year<br>(Upon Full Implementation) |
| <b>1. Estimated Total Cost</b>     |   | 0.00                                 | 0.00                                      |
| Personal Services                  |   |                                      |   |
| Current Expenses                   |   |                                      |   |
| Repairs & Alterations              |   |                                      |   |
| Assets                             |   |                                      |   |
| Other                              |   |                                      |   |
| <b>2. Estimated Total Revenues</b> | 81,000.00                               |                                      |   |

Rule Title: Title 21 Series 1



# WV NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATORS LICENSING BOARD

P.O. BOX 522

WINFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA 25213

PHONE (304) 586-4070

FAX (304) 586-4079

## Brief Summary of Proposal

Title 21 Series 1

Nursing Home Administrators Licensing Board

In proposing that administrative experience to be counted as the time spent serving as an AIT (Administrator-In-Training) or on an emergency permit as person-in-charge of a long term facility; the applicant would be more likely to stay in West Virginia and not become discouraged into leaving or not seeking licensure in the profession. Also, this proposal would increase the number that would be licensed earlier thus being available to step in as administrator where necessary.

Also, we made some technical changes in the format of the rule and added definitions in order to more clearly define and outline requirements to become licensed as a nursing home administrator.

*Veronica Summing*  
*Executive Director*



# WV NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATORS LICENSING BOARD

P.O. BOX 522

WINFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA 25213

PHONE (304) 586-4070

FAX (304) 586-4079

Wednesday, July 15, 2015

TO: Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee:

FROM: Nursing Home Administrators Licensing Board

During the Nursing Home Administrators Licensing Board's comment period from June 9 to July 10, 2015 at 4:30 p.m. there were two comments received:

- A proposed rewrite of just our wording to enable more reader friendly verbiage of subsections **3.2** through **3.3.d**. The comment was from the West Virginia Health Care Association dated July 9, 2015. The Board also agreed that subsection **3.2.a** was unclear and with our present rule was not necessary to have this included. Also, in subsection **2.7** the article **a** was added to two places. Our Board met with a conference call and unanimously agreed to accept the proposal from the West Virginia Health Care Association. (attached) A letter of response was sent to the WV Health Care Association agreeing to accept their proposal. (attached)
- The second comment dated July 9, 2015 from a group of four licensed RN's/Nursing Home Administrators; requesting that the Board amend our WVCSR 21-1 rule subsection **3.3.a.4** to allow registered nurses with associate degrees to sit for the nursing home administrator examination if they have served five years or more as a Director of Nursing in a skilled nursing facility; and have the Board waiver the required Administrator-In-Training program. Also, in subsection **3.2.a.6** as a pre-examination requirement accept an associate of science degree and possess an unencumbered active license as a registered nurse in the State of West Virginia. This request would lower our present requirement of a baccalaureate degree or higher for registered nurses applying to sit for the exam. (attached)
- The Board met and discussed the request concerning the merits and concerns about this proposal. The Board agreed that given the short notice due to a legislative deadline, and the date of receipt of the letter, this was an issue that could best be reconsidered at a later date when more thought and information could be gathered in order to make a more informed decision. The Board agreed unanimously to reject the proposal at this time. A letter of response was sent to each individual person signing the letter of request of the Board's actions concerning the rejection of their proposal at this time. (attached)

July 9, 2015

Ms. Veronica S. Cummings  
NHALB  
PO Box 522  
Winfield, WV 25213

Re: Nursing Home Administrators Licensing Board Proposed Rule

Dear Ms. Cummings:

Please accept the following comments related to the proposed changes to WVCSR 21-1-1 et seq.

1. *With respect to the definition of "inpatient health care facility," we believe that the article "a" should be inserted as follows:*

2.7. "Inpatient health care facility" means a licensed nursing facility, an assisted living facility, licensed residential care community, a personal care facility, an inpatient hospice, or a hospital or a nursing facility that is a distinct part of a hospital or other like facility providing 24 hour nursing and / or rehabilitation care.

2. *We are unsure why the date of May 10, 1986 is maintained in subsection 3.2.a and the purpose of the subsection. If a person has "maintained continuous licensure," why would he or she need to take the exam and meet pre-examination requirements? The purpose and meaning of this subsection is unclear.*

*3. We propose the following rewrite of subsections 3.2 through 3.3.d*

**3.2 Pre-examination requirements:**

3.2.a An applicant shall not be permitted to take an examination for licensure as a nursing home administrator unless the applicant submits satisfactory evidence to the Board that the applicant has met the following requirements:

3.2.a.1 Submits a written and complete application for licensure and examination, on forms approved by the Board, at least thirty days prior to the examination day;

3.2.a.2. Attains the age of twenty-one years;

3.2.a.3. Submits written evidence from a licensed physician that he or she:

3.2.a.3.a Possess no physical impairments that would prohibit him or her from performing the duties of a nursing home administrator, which include good health and freedom from contagious disease; and

3.2.a.3.b. Possess no mental impairment that would appear to the Board to be likely to interfere with the performance of the duties of a nursing home administrator.

3.2.a.4. Two letters of reference covering at least the calendar year preceding the date of application which address the applicant's:

3.2.a.4.a. Ability to understand and communicate general and technical information necessary to the administration and operation of a nursing home (i.e., applicable health and safety rules);

3.2.a.4.b. Ability to assume responsibility for the administration of a nursing home as evidenced by prior accredited activities and evaluations of prior service; and

3.2.a.4.c. Ability to relate the physical, psychological, spiritual, emotional and social needs of ill and/ or aged individuals to the nursing home administration and create the compassionate climate necessary to meet the needs of the patients in the nursing home;

3.2.a.5. Completion of high school or other secondary school education;

3.2.a.6. Completion of a baccalaureate or higher degree from an accredited college or university; and

3.2.a.6. Completion of a Board approved Administrator-In-Training program, unless waived by the Board.

### **3.3 Waiver of Administrator-In-Training requirement:**

3.3.a The Board may waive the Administrator-In-Training requirement if an applicant can demonstrate to the Board's satisfaction that he or she meets one of the following three criteria:

3.3.a.1. Successfully completed a minimum of twelve (12) hours of subjects specifically designated as health care management and / or health care administration in his or her baccalaureate or higher degree curriculum and at least 1000 hours of management experience in an inpatient health care facility. The management experience must include personnel management, fiscal management, planning and organizing and regulatory compliance. The 1000 hour requirement may be met through participation in a Board approved Administrator-In-Training program or through work performed in a nursing home on an emergency permit. The burden is on the applicant to demonstrate the 12 hour requirement is incorporated in the baccalaureate curriculum or higher degree;

3.3.a.2. Possess a baccalaureate degree and has worked in long term care in the role of an Assistant Administrator or an equivalent position such as a Director of Nursing, Assistant Director of Nursing or Social Services Director, for a period of three (3) years; or

3.3.a.3. Possess a baccalaureate degree or higher from a National Association of Long Term Care Administrator's Board (NAB) accredited college program with internship or an accredited college program that has a baccalaureate degree or higher in Health Care Administration, Health Services Administration or a similarly related administration field that includes an internship program.

3.3.b. If the applicant fails to produce evidence of these requirements that is satisfactory to the Board, the applicant shall complete an Administrator-In-Training program as specified in subsection 4.3 of this rule.

### **3.4 Background checks**

#### **3.4.a. Criminal history.**

3.4.a.1. Applicants shall consent to a criminal background check by the Board.

3.4.a.2. The Board shall request a criminal identification Bureau Report from the West Virginia State Police and a fingerprint criminal history background check by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

3.4.a.3. The Board shall not approve an applicant for examination or licensure who has been convicted of a crime, unless a variance has been granted, which prohibits a person from working in a nursing home as established by law (see WV Code 16-5C-21)

3.4.a.4. The Board considers the pre-examination requirements for licensure set forth in this section as minimal and shall not waive them. (Does this only apply to criminal background checks or does it apply to more?)

#### **3.4.b. Professional history**

3.4.b.1. An applicant must report to the Board any and all current and former licenses and certifications that the applicant has held;

3.4.b.2. An applicant must report the current status of all licenses and certifications that the license has held including but not limited to, any sanctions or revocations.

3.4.b.3. The Board may deny an applicant's request for examination or licensure based on adverse actions taken against an applicant's license or certification.

3.4.b.4. The Board may deny an applicant's request for examination or licensure based on incomplete, vague or misleading information provided by the applicant to the Board.

### **3.5 Disqualification: Reexamination.**

3.5.a. An applicant for examination who does not meet pre-examination requirements shall be given written notification by the Board by certified mail return receipt requested, of his or her disqualification and the reasons for the disqualification and of his or her right to a hearing within thirty (30) days.

3.5.b. An applicant for examination who does not meet pre-examination requirements, may petition the Board in writing for a hearing and a review of his or her application within thirty (30) days of receipt of the notification of disqualification.

3.5.c. Where an applicant for examination has not met pre-examination requirements, he or she may submit a new application for qualification for examination. The applicant shall meet the requirements for licensing that are in force at the time of the reapplication.

3.5.d. Every applicant shall successfully pass a written national and state examination.

### **3.6 Personal Interview**

3.6.a. The Board may designate a time and place at which an applicant may be required to present himself or herself for inquiry as to his or her suitability to sit for the examination or for licensure.

3.6.b. If an applicant fails to appear before the Board at a place and time set by the Board on two occasions, the Board must cease to process the applicant's request for examination or licensure.

3.6.c. An applicant may start the process again by filing a new application and paying all applicable fees.

*4. Subsection 8.2.c states that after one year from expiration of a license, an administrator must demonstrate 20 hours of continuous education to be eligible to forego retesting. The language in this sub section is vague in terms of what the applicant is required to do and the fee associated with the request.*

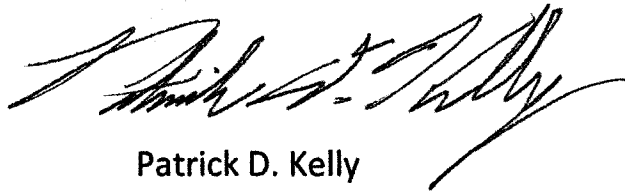
You may wish to consider the following:

8.2.c. The Board, in its discretion, <sup>may</sup> reinstate the license of a previously licensed WV Nursing Home Administrator whose license has lapsed for more than one year from its date of expiration and may grant a waiver for retesting. The applicant must submit a formal request along with an application that includes, but is not limited to, the applicant's professional history, the applicant's criminal

history, good cause for the lapse and evidence of at least 20 hours of continuing education hours completed in the 12 months prior to his or her request for a reinstated license. The applicant must also pay a fee of five hundred (\$500). If the Board does not grant the request to reinstate the license, the applicant will be treated as a new applicant under this rule and shall be required to complete all requirements and pay all applicable fees associated with a new application.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of these comments.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick D. Kelly", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the printed name.

Patrick D. Kelly



Homestead Avenue • Wheeling, WV 26003

July 9, 2015

Ms. Veronica S. Cummings  
NHALB  
PO Box 522  
Winfield, WV 25213

Re: Nursing Home Administrators Licensing Board Proposed Rule (Revised) *to NHB 7/9/15*

Dear Ms. Cummings:

The purpose of this letter is to request that the Board amend its proposed changes to WVCSR 21-1 to allow Registered Nurses with associate degrees to sit for the administrator examination if they have served 5 years or more as a Director of Nursing in a Skilled Nursing Facility. The proposed language is highlighted below and is based on the changes offered by the West Virginia Health Care Association. The Director of Nursing position in a Skilled Nursing Facility requires the individual to possess at a minimum the ability to effectively execute personnel management, fiscal management, plan and organize the delivery of care and maintain regulatory compliance. Five years of successful performance in this position in a continuously changing reimbursement and regulatory environment more than adequately prepares a nursing leader to successfully complete the NAB examination and serve as a nursing home administrator. Registered nurse licensing requires completion of a rigorous curriculum, successful NCLEX licensing examination and a minimum of twelve (12) continuing education credits annually to maintain licensure. Many individual's that possess a baccalaureate degree are not held to the state and nationally driven standards of registered nurse licensing. In addition, a registered nurse brings a different skill set to the role of administrator in that the clinical components that directly affect successful discharge to the community, resident and family satisfaction, the CMS 5 Star Rating and quality outcomes are directly impacted by the leadership necessary for the delivery of care and services. Registered nurse leaders are well prepared to lead the skilled nursing industry as it is challenged with the increasing clinical complexity of the population while accountability metrics become much more transparent.

**3.2 Pre-examination requirements:**



3.2.a An applicant shall not be permitted to take an examination for licensure as a nursing home administrator unless the applicant submits satisfactory evidence to the Board that the applicant has met the following requirements:

3.2.a.1 Submits a written and complete application for licensure and examination, on forms approved by the Board, at least thirty days prior to the examination day;

3.2.a.2. Attains the age of twenty-one years;

3.2.a.3. Submits written evidence from a licensed physician that he or she:

3.2.a.3.a Possess no physical impairments that would prohibit him or her from performing the duties of a nursing home administrator, which include good health and freedom from contagious disease; and

3.2.a.3.b. Possess no mental impairment that would appear to the Board to be likely to interfere with the performance of the duties of a nursing home administrator.

3.2.a.4. Two letters of reference covering at least the calendar year preceding the date of application which address the applicant's:

3.2.a.4.a. Ability to understand and communicate general and technical information necessary to the administration and operation of a nursing home (i.e., applicable health and safety rules);

3.2.a.4.b. Ability to assume responsibility for the administration of a nursing home as evidenced by prior accredited activities and evaluations of prior service; and

3.2.a.4.c. Ability to relate the physical, psychological, spiritual, emotional and social needs of ill and/ or aged individuals to the nursing home administration and create the compassionate climate necessary to meet the needs of the patients in the nursing home;

3.2.a.5. Completion of high school or other secondary school education;

3.2.a.6. Completion of an **associate of science degree in nursing and possesses an unencumbered active license as a Registered Nurse in the State of WV, a baccalaureate degree or higher degree from an accredited college or university; and**

3.2.a.6. Completion of a Board approved Administrator-In-Training program, unless waived by the Board.

### **3.3 Waiver of Administrator-In-Training requirement:**

3.3.a The Board may waive the Administrator-In-Training requirement if an applicant can demonstrate to the Board's satisfaction that he or she meets one of the following **four** criteria:

3.3.a.1. Successfully completed a minimum of twelve (12) hours of subjects specifically designated as health care management and / or health care administration in his or her baccalaureate or higher degree curriculum and at least 1000 hours of management experience in an inpatient health care facility. The management experience must include personnel management, fiscal management, planning and organizing and regulatory compliance. The 1000 hour requirement may be met through participation in a Board approved Administrator-In-Training program or through work performed in a nursing home on an emergency permit. The burden is on the applicant to demonstrate the 12 hour requirement is incorporated in the baccalaureate curriculum or higher degree;

3.3.a.2. Possess a baccalaureate degree and has worked in long term care in the role of an Assistant Administrator or an equivalent position such as a Director of Nursing, Assistant Director of Nursing or Social Services Director, for a period of three (3) years; or

3.3.a.3. Possess a baccalaureate degree or higher from a National Association of Long Term Care Administrator's Board (NAB) accredited college program with internship or an accredited college program that has a baccalaureate degree or higher in Health Care Administration, Health Services Administration or a similarly related administration field that includes an internship program.

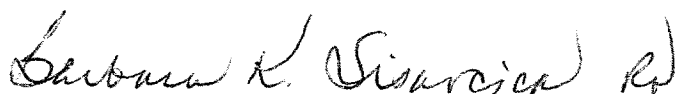
**3.3.a.4 Served as a Director of Nursing at a nursing home or a distinct part of a hospital whose beds are denoted on the hospital license as a nursing home or a skilled nursing facility during five of the seven years immediately preceding the date of application and who currently possesses an unencumbered active license as a Registered Nurse in the State of WV.**

3.3.b. If the applicant fails to produce evidence of these requirements that is satisfactory to the Board, the applicant shall complete an Administrator-In-Training program as specified in subsection 4.3 of this rule.

This request is being submitted to the Board on behalf of myself and the following successfully licensed Nursing Home Administrators in the State of WV who possess concurrently licensure as a Registered Nurse:

1. Candy Sanchez, RN, NHA
2. Denise Campbell, RN, NHA
3. Deatra Adkins, RN, NHA

Thank you for considering this request.



Barbara K. Sisarcick RN, NHA

Executive Officer/Administrator



# WV NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATORS LICENSING BOARD

P.O. BOX 522

WINFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA 25213

PHONE (304) 586-4070

FAX (304) 586-4079

Wednesday, July 15, 2015

West Virginia Health Care Association  
110 Association Drive  
Charleston, WV 25311

## Members:

The Nursing Home Administrators Licensing Board would like to take this opportunity to thank your membership for suggestions to our proposed WVCSR 21-1-1 rewrite by enabling our Board to incorporate more user-friendly verbiage that we will be presenting to the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee shortly.

We were also in agreement with the lack of clarity and need to have subsection 3.2.a included in our rule.

Our Board conducted a conference call on Monday, July 13<sup>th</sup> and voted unanimously to accept your proposals.

Once again, thank you for your valuable input as we strive to continue maintaining a high level of leadership in health care administration for West Virginia.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Veronica S. Cummings".

Veronica S. Cummings  
Executive Director



# WV NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATORS LICENSING BOARD

P.O. BOX 522

WINFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA 25213

PHONE (304) 586-4070

FAX (304) 586-4079

Wednesday, July 15, 2015

Ms. Barbara K. Sisarcick, RN, NHA  
Executive Officer/Administrator  
Peterson Rehabilitation Hospital  
Homestead Avenue  
Wheeling, WV 26003

Dear Ms. Sisarcick

On July 13, 2015 our Board conducted a conference call to consider your proposal of our WVCSR 21-1 rule rewrite pertaining to section **3.2 Pre-examination requirements**, subsection **3.2.a.6** to include an associate of science degree with an unencumbered active license as a registered nurse in West Virginia.

In subsection **3.3.a.4** you proposed waiver of the Administrator-In-Training program if the nurse had served as a director of nursing in a nursing home, skilled nursing facility or a distinct part of a hospital for five of the seven years immediately preceding the date of application.

During our meeting, the Board discussed the merits and concerns of this proposal to change the present rule from a requirement of a baccalaureate degree to an associate degree. The Board unanimously voted that given the date of your letter and the legislative deadline; this was a proposal that could best be reconsidered at a later date when more thought and information could be gathered in order to make an informed decision.

On behalf of our Board, thank you for being an important part of our great leadership in long term health care.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Veronica S. Cummings".

Veronica S. Cummings  
Executive Director

TITLE 21  
LEGISLATIVE RULE  
WEST VIRGINIA NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATORS LICENSING BOARD

SERIES 1  
NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATORS

FILED

2015 JUL 17 P 12:58

OFFICE WEST VIRGINIA  
SECRETARY OF STATE

**§21-1-1. General.**

- 1.1. Scope. -- This rule establishes the requirements for licensing as a Nursing Home Administrator.
- 1.2. Authority. -- W. Va. Code §30-25-8.
- 1.3. Filing Date. -- ~~April 13, 2012~~
- 1.4. Effective Date. -- ~~April 13, 2012~~

**§21-1-2. Definitions.**

Whenever used in this Rule, unless the context or subject matter requires a different meaning, the following terms have their respective meanings:

- 2.1. "Applicant" means any person making application for an original or renewal license or a temporary or emergency permit under the provisions of this article;
- 2.2. "Board" means the West Virginia Nursing Home Administrators Licensing Board as created in W. Va. Code §30-25-4;
- 2.3. "Code of Ethics" means the code of ethics developed by the American College of Health Care Administrators (ACHCA), Alexandria, Virginia (2014) and recommended by the National Association of Boards (NAB), Washington, D.C.; and
- 2.4. "Emeritus Status" means a retired nursing home administrator duly recognized by the Board to have at least twenty (20) years of practice, with the last ten (10) years of practice being consecutive years in West Virginia;
- 2.5. "Examination" means the national test and the state test that applicants are required to pass, unless specified otherwise;
- 2.6. "Fiscal Management" For the purpose of management experience; fiscal management includes, but is not limited to, budgeting, census development, reimbursement, and financial projections.
- 2.7. "Inpatient health care facility" means a licensed nursing facility, an assisted living facility, licensed residential care community, a personal care facility, an inpatient hospice, or a hospital or a nursing facility that is a distinct part of a hospital or other like facility providing 24 hour nursing and/or rehabilitation care.
- 2.8. "Internship" A practicum or course of study as part of a degree or post degree program designed especially for the preparation of candidates for licensure as nursing home administrators that involve

supervision by an accredited college or university of the practical application of previously studied curriculum.

2.9. "License" means the document issued by the Board as defined in §21-1-5 in this Rule;

2.10. "Management Experience" means the actual full time practice of health care facility management of an inpatient health care facility as defined above with guidance and sharing of responsibility from the administrator and must include experience in personnel management, fiscal management, planning and organizing and regulatory compliance.

2.11. "Nursing Home" For the purpose of the Administrator-In-Training program a nursing home means a facility licensed by the State of WV as a nursing home or a distinct part of a hospital whose beds are denoted on the hospital license as a nursing home or skilled nursing facility.

2.12. "Nursing Home Administrator-In-Training" (AIT) means an individual registered with the Board, under subsection 4.3. of this Rule;

2.13. "Personnel Management" For the purpose of management experience; personnel management includes but is not limited to, experience in determining staffing needs, creation of job descriptions, recruitment of new employees, interviewing, hiring and termination of employees.

2.14. "Planning and Organizing" For the purpose of management experience; planning and organizing includes, but is not limited to, experience in short term planning such as day to day operations of business-related events and long term planning; such as goal development, organizing and delegating tasks to appropriate personnel with the end result being a coordinated work environment.

2.15. "Practice of Nursing Home Administration" means any service requiring nursing home administration, education, training, or experience and applying such to planning, organizing, staffing, directing and controlling the total management of a nursing home;

2.16. "Professional misconduct or unprofessional conduct" means any conduct by a licensed nursing home administrator (NHA) or permittee, including, but not limited to, any of the following:

2.16.a. obtaining a license or emergency permit by means of fraud, deceit or intentional misrepresentation;

2.16.b. engaging in deceit, fraud, or intentional misrepresentation in the course of providing professional services or engaging in professional activities;

2.16.c. failing to exercise a professional regard for the safety, health and life of the patient;

2.16.d. discriminating in respect to patients, employers, or staff on account of race, religion, color, national origin or sex, disability, ancestry or any other legally protected status identified in applicable federal or state law civil rights laws; and

2.16.e. failing to comply with the Code of Ethics as defined above.

2.17. "Reexamination" is a process whereby the applicant may petition the Board to retake either the National and/or State examination if the applicant has not passed the licensure exams;

2.18. "Regulatory Compliance" For the purpose of management experience; regulatory compliance includes, but is not limited to, experience in federal and state survey requirements, development or implementation of policies and procedures to meet current regulations, plans of corrections and mandatory regulatory requirements.

2.19. "Substandard Quality of Care Policy" means the procedures the Board follows upon receipt of notice by the Office of Health Facility Licensure and Certification (OHFLAC) citing a Medicare/Medicaid certified nursing facility with providing substandard quality of care.

2.20. "Violation" means a failure to comply with W. Va. Code §30-1-1 et seq. or any provision of this Rule.

### **§21-1-3. Examinations.**

#### 3.1. Scheduling of examinations and reexaminations.

3.1.a. Applicants for examination shall meet all pre-requirements for taking the examinations as specified in this rule. Upon Board approval, applicants may apply to test online for the NAB National Examination through the National Association of Boards of Examiners of Long Term Care Administrators website – [www.nabweb.org](http://www.nabweb.org). All costs or fees charged by the testing agency for the national examination are not covered in the initial application fee. An applicant shall pay all testing fees directly to the testing agency.

3.1.b. Upon Board approval, applicants may sit for the WV State Examination. This examination is administered once a month. The initial application fee covers an applicant's first time taking the examination, Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) is charged for each additional testing. Applicants shall contact the Board office to schedule the examination.

3.1.c. Applicants may take the national and state examination up to four (4) times within one (1) year from the date they receive Board approval. If an applicant fails either examination for the fourth time or is unable to successfully test within (1) one year from the date of Board approval the applicant ~~shall~~ may appear before the Board and present evidence of further education or extenuating circumstance before the Board may consider that person eligible for reexamination.

3.1.d. If the applicant fails to notify the Board of his or her request for additional time to test prior to the expiration of the (1) one year time period approved by the Board; the applicant will be required to submit a new application to sit for both the national and state exams.

3.1.e. The Board shall keep a record stating in detail the results of the examination for each applicant as a permanent record.

#### 3.2. Pre-examination requirements:

~~3.2.a. The pre-examination requirements in this section do not apply to any person licensed as a nursing home administrator prior to May 10, 1986, who has maintained continuous licensure since that time.~~

3.2.a. An applicant shall not be permitted to take an examination for licensure as a nursing home administrator unless the applicant submits satisfactory evidence to the Board that the applicant has met The following requirements:

3. a.1 Submits a written and complete application for licensure and examination, on forms approved by the Board, at least thirty days prior to the examination day;

3.2 a.2. Attains the age of twenty-one years;

3.2.a.3. Submits written evidence from a licensed physician that he or she:

3.2.a.3.a. Possess no physical impairments that would prohibit him or her from performing the duties of a nursing home administrator, which include good health and freedom from contagious disease; and

3.2.a.3.b. Possess no mental impairment that would appear to the Board to be likely to interfere with the performance of the duties of a nursing home administrator.

3.2.a.4. Two letters of reference covering at least the calendar year preceding the date of application which address the applicant's:

3.2.a.4.a Ability to understand and communicate general and technical information necessary to the administration and operation of a nursing home (i.e., applicable health and safety rules);

3.2.a.4.b Ability to assume responsibility for the administration of a nursing home as evidenced by prior accredited activities and evaluations of prior services; and

3.2.a.4.c Ability to relate the physical, psychological, spiritual, emotional and social needs of ill and/or aged individuals to the nursing home administration and create the compassionate climate necessary to meet the needs of the patients in the nursing home;

3.2.a.5. Completion of high school or other secondary school education;

3.2.a.6. Completion of a baccalaureate or higher degree from an accredited college or university; and

3.2.a.7. Completion of a Board approved Administrator-In-Training program, unless waived by the Board.

### **3.3 Waiver of Administrator-In-Training requirement:**

3.3.a The Board may waive the Administrator-In-Training requirement if an applicant can demonstrate to the Board's satisfaction that he or she meets one of the following three criteria:

3.3.a.1. Successfully completed a minimum of twelve (12) hours of subjects specifically designated as health care management and/or health care administration in his or her baccalaureate or higher degree curriculum and at least 1000 hours of management experience in an inpatient health care facility. The management experience must include personnel management, fiscal managements, planning and organizing and regulatory compliance. The 1000 hours requirement may be met through participation in a Board approved Administrator-In-Training program or through work performed in a nursing home on an emergency permit. The burden is on the applicant to demonstrate the 12 hour requirement is incorporated in the baccalaureate curriculum or higher degree;

3.3.a.2. Possess a baccalaureate degree and has worked in long term care in the role of an Assistant Administrator or an equivalent position such as a Director of Nursing, Assistant Director of Nursing or Social Services Director, for a period of three (3) years; or

3.3.a.3 Possess a baccalaureate degree or higher from a National Association of Long Term Care Administrator's Board (NAB) accredited college program with internship or an accredited college program that has a baccalaureate degree or higher in Health Care Administration, Health Services Administration or a similarly related administration field that includes an internship program.

3.3.b. If the applicant fails to produce evidence of these requirements that is satisfactory to the Board, the applicant shall complete an Administrator-In-Training program as specified in subsection 4.3 of this rule.

### **3.4 Background checks**

#### 3.4.a. Criminal history.

3.4.a.1. Applicants shall consent to a criminal background check by the Board

3.4.a.2. The Board shall request a criminal identification Bureau Report from the West Virginia State Police and a fingerprint criminal history background check by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

3.4.a.3. The Board shall not ~~permit~~ approve an applicant for examination or licensure who has been convicted of a crime, unless a variance has been granted, which prohibits a person from working in a nursing home as established by law (see WV Code 16-5C-21)

3.4.a.4. The Board considers the pre-examination requirements for licensure set forth in this section as minimal and shall not waive them.

#### 3.4.b. Professional history

3.4.b.2. An applicant must report to the Board any and all current and former licenses and certifications that the applicant has held;

3.4.b.3. The Board may deny an applicant's request for examination or licensure based on adverse actions taken against an applicant's license or certification.

3.4.b.4. The Board may deny an applicant's request for examination or licensure based on incomplete, vague, or misleading information provided by the applicant to the Board.

### **3.5. Disqualification: Reexamination.**

3.5.a. An applicant for examination who does not meet pre-examination requirements shall be given written notification by the Board by certified mail return receipt requested, of his or her disqualification and the reasons for the disqualification and of his or her right to a hearing within thirty (30) days.

3.5.b. An applicant for examination who does not meet pre-examination requirements may petition the Board in writing for a hearing and a review of his or her application within thirty (30) days of receipt of the notification of disqualification.

3.5.c. Where an applicant for examination has not met pre-examination requirements, he or she may submit a new application for qualification for examination. The applicant shall meet the requirements for licensing that are in force at the time of the reapplication.

3.5.d. Every applicant shall successfully pass a written national and state examination.

**3.6 Personal Interview.**

3.6.a. The Board may designate a time and place at which an applicant may be required to present himself or herself for inquiry as to his or her suitability to sit for the examination or for licensure.

3.6.b. If an applicant fails to appear before the Board at a place and time set by the Board on two occasions, the Board must cease to process the applicant's request for examination or licensure.

3.6.c. An applicant may start the process again by filing a new application and paying all applicable fees.

**§21-1-4. Education, Training and Experience.**

4.1. Registration of licensed and/or accredited education institutions and courses of study.

4.1.a. A licensed or accredited educational institution offering any courses of study for the purpose of qualifying applicants for licensure as a nursing home administrator shall first submit the courses of study to the Board for approval. In order for a course of study to be approved, it shall cover those subjects contained on the written national examination as provided for in subsection 3.4. of this rule.

4.2. Registration of continuing education programs.

4.2.a. Every licensed administrator shall obtain annually, at least twenty (20) clock hours of continuing education, through programs approved by the Board or by the National Association of Boards of Examiners of Long Term Care Administrators National Continuing Education Review Service (NCERS).

4.2.a.1. Emeritus Status Administrators shall obtain annually at least ten (10) clock hours of continuing education approved as provided in subsection 4.2.a. of this rule.

4.2.b. A Licensee seeking continuing education hours for completion of a college course in health care administration may submit to the Board the syllabus of the completed course along with a copy of the official transcript verifying the final grade received. The Board may approve One (1) credited college course hour, to be applied as ten (10) continuing education hours.

4.3. Practical training and experience one (1) year Administrator-In-Training (AIT) Program.

~~4.3.a. An applicant has the option of acquiring his or her Administrator In Training Program under this rule or if currently approved by the Board a program sponsored by the WV Chapter of the American College of Health Care Administrators (WV-ACHCA).~~

4.3.a. Prior to entering the one (1) year nursing home Administrator-in-Training (AIT) program for the purpose of obtaining practical training and experience, the applicant shall apply for the Administrator-In-Training (AIT) permit on a form prescribed by the Board, and submit a fee of Six Hundred Dollars (\$600.00) payable by certified check or money order to the Board.

4.3.b. The Board shall not approve an application for an Administrator-In-Training (AIT) permit unless the applicant submits evidence satisfactory to the Board that he or she meets all pre-examination requirements under this rule and that:

4.3.b.1. the training will be under the full-time supervision of a fully licensed nursing home administrator who has been licensed for at least three (3) years and licensed and practicing in West Virginia for at least the preceding year. The nursing home administrator must be approved by the Board as a preceptor, and accept the responsibility of training the applicant;

4.3.b.2. the training is of a grade and character satisfactory to the Board;

4.3.b.3. the training is to be obtained in a licensed nursing home which has been approved by the Board;

4.3.b.4. the training is to be served during eight (8) consecutive hours daily, except for regular days off, with a minimum of forty (40) hours weekly;

4.3.b.5. the trainee agreement form provided by the Board is signed by the nursing home Administrator-in-Training (AIT) and the preceptor and submitted to the Board for approval; and

4.3.b.6. the nursing home Administrator-in-Training (AIT) has no outside employment during training hours or thereafter unless the employment is known of and approved by the preceptor.

4.3.c. Progress report.

4.3.c.1. Every preceptor of every Administrator-in-Training (AIT) shall file quarterly forms provided by the Board and shall set forth an accurate record of the duties performed by the (AIT) during the period covered by the report.

4.3.c.2. Every report filed by the preceptor of the nursing home (AIT) shall be approved and signed by the preceptor and by the (AIT).

4.3.c.3. If a preceptor of an (AIT) fails to file quarterly reports for a period of two (2) years from the date of issuance of the in-training permit, the Board shall consider that the (AIT) has abandoned his or her practical training and experience. In the event the (AIT) thereafter seeks to qualify for a nursing home administrator license, the Board shall consider him or her as a new applicant, with no portion of training completed. The applicant shall meet the requirements for qualification for training, examination, and licensure that exist at the time of the new application.

4.3.c.4. A nursing home (AIT) may take two (2) weeks leave for compulsory military training, vacation or sick leave each year without loss of credit for his or her required practical training and experience.

4.3.c.5. If an (AIT) discontinues his or her training, the Preceptor and the (AIT) shall report the discontinuance of the Administrator-in-Training Program to the Board, within 30 days after the discontinuance.

4.3.c.6. A change of preceptor of the nursing home (AIT) in any nursing home shall be reported to the Board in writing by the preceptor and the Administrator-In-Training (AIT) within ten (10) days after the change of the supervision. The new administrator of the nursing home, if willing to continue the training program of the (AIT), must meet the qualification of a preceptor as required in this rule & shall obtain Board approval for preceptorship.

4.3.c.7. The Board shall allow any person who was a duly authorized nursing home (AIT) whose training and experience is interrupted by service in the Armed Forces of the United States, to resume his or her training and experience at any time within one (1) year after the date of his or her honorable discharge from active service.

4.3.c.8. The period for the training program as an (AIT) shall last for a period of not more than one (1) year and shall be under the supervision of a preceptor who has been approved by the Board.

4.3.c.9. Alternating and rotating shifts of eight (8) working hours may be approved by the Board as being acceptable upon request by the (AIT); provided, that at least fifty percent (50%) of the training hours will be served between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. in regular steady, full time employment under the personal supervision of the nursing home administrator preceptor at the nursing home in which the nursing home (AIT) is employed; and

4.3.c.10. the preceptor will provide full-time supervision for the (AIT) and the supervision is provided in the nursing home where the trainee is employed.

4.3.c.11. In the event that the Board determines that a preceptor has failed to provide the (AIT) with the opportunity to adequately train himself or herself under the proper supervision in the administrative and operating functions of the nursing home, the Board shall cancel the preceptor's authorization to serve as preceptor, for a period of time prescribed by the Board.

4.3.c.12. When the preceptor's authorization is cancelled, the (AIT)'s program shall be suspended or a partial program shall be accepted until such time as the (AIT) locates another qualified preceptor who is approved by the Board; after which time the (AIT)'s training shall continue.

4.3.c.13. After an applicant for licensure completes the (AIT) program, and before he or she sits for the licensing examination, the Board may appoint a committee to determine if the applicant has received training consistent with the guidelines established by the Board.

4.3.c.14. After completion of the (AIT) Program, the (AIT) shall pay all additional fees referred to in subdivision 3.1.c. of this rule.

**§21-1-5. Licenses.**

5.1. Qualifications for licenses.

5.1.a. To be eligible for a license as a nursing home administrator an applicant shall:

5.1.a.1. meet all pre-examination requirements as set forth in subsection 3.2 of this Rule, as well as meet requirements of all other applicable Rules; and

5.1.a.2. pass the national and state examinations prescribed by the Board in the subject of nursing home administration.

5.2. Application for and issuance of license, renewal of licenses and display.

5.2.a. Any applicant for a nursing home administrator license shall submit an application, on forms prescribed by the Board containing information the Board may determine reasonable under this Rule, and pay the Board a license fee of Six Hundred Dollars (\$600.00) in the form of a certified check or money

order. The Board shall return the fee, minus any costs incurred by the Board (i.e. processing fee), if it denies a license to the applicant.

5.2.b. An applicant for emeritus administrator status shall submit an application on the forms prescribed by the Board and pay the Board a fee equivalent to one half (1/2) ~~one third (1/3)~~ of the renewal fee for other licenses in the form of a certified check or money order.

5.2.c. Whenever the Board finds that an applicant meets all of the requirements of this Rule for a license as a nursing home administrator, it shall immediately issue a license to the applicant. If the Board finds the applicant does not meet the requirements, the Board shall contact the applicant in writing and give reasons for the denial of the license.

5.2.d. The license is valid for a period ending on June 30 each year and may be renewed without formal examination upon timely application for renewal on a form prescribed by the Board and payment to the Board of the renewal fee of Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) in the form of a certified check or money order. The Board may deny an application for renewal for any reason which would justify the denial of an original application for a license, or for failure to provide written verification of satisfactory attendance and completion of relevant continuing education as specified in subsection 4.2 of this rule.

5.2.e. The nursing home administrator license certificate shall be conspicuously displayed by the licensee at each nursing home for which he or she is the administrator.

5.2.f. Only a person who has qualified as a licensed nursing home administrator and who hold a valid current license certificate pursuant to the provisions of this Rule may use the title "Nursing Home Administrator" and the abbreviation of "N.H.A." after his or her name. No other person shall use or shall be designated by this title or this abbreviation or any other words, letters, etc., to indicate he or she is licensed as a nursing home administrator.

5.2.g. A licensee desiring to cease engaging in the practice of nursing home administration temporarily shall send written notice to the Board. Upon receipt of the notice, the board shall place the licensee on an inactive list. While his or her name remains on this list the licensee shall not be subject to the payment of any fee and shall not engage in the practice of nursing home administration or act as a nursing home administrator, as the case may be, in this State. When the person again desires to engage in the practice of nursing home administration or to act as a nursing home administrator in this State, the person shall apply for renewal of his or her license by submitting the current renewal application and fee, and verification of all required continuing education hours for every licensure year the licensee was on inactive status.

5.2.h. After one year from the expiration date of his or her license, any licensee who has not given written notice to the Board and who has not been placed on the Board's inactive list as indicated in 5.2.g the licensee will be treated as a new applicant and be required to meet all the provisions of 3.2 of this Rule.

5.2.i. A person who is a holder of an emergency permit or of an Administrator-in-Training (AIT) permit shall not be considered as meeting the requirements for licensure as a nursing home administrator and, therefore, may not use the title "Nursing Home Administrator" or the abbreviation of "N.H.A."

5.2.j. No person shall be or act as a nursing home administrator, except as provided by W. Va. Code §30-25-9, unless they hold a current valid license or permit issued pursuant to this Rule;

## 21CSR1

5.2.k. A listing of West Virginia's Nursing Home Administrators is available from the Board for a fee of \$50.00.

5.2.l. Every person holding a license or permit from this Board shall report to the Board any known or observed violation of W. Va. Code §30-25-14 et seq., or the Board's rules. Any person holding a license or permit issued by the Board (including self-reporting) shall report such occurrence within thirty (30) days.

### 5.3. License Restrictions.

5.3.a. The following restrictions apply to licensed nursing home administrators:

5.3.a.1. A licensed nursing home administrator shall not direct more than two (2) nursing homes at one time. An administrator may direct two (2) nursing homes which are within reasonable proximity. For the purposes of this section, reasonable proximity is defined as thirty (30) minutes driving time. An administrator may not direct more than a total of one hundred twenty (120) beds.

5.3.a.2. the administrator of two (2) nursing homes shall average not less than twenty (20) hours per week at each nursing home. The administrator shall have a competent and experienced assistant at each nursing home. The nursing home administrator shall document each period of service. The documentation shall be available to the Board upon request;

5.3.a.3. a nursing home administrator who is a registered professional nurse cannot serve the same nursing home both as a director of nursing services and administrator unless the nursing home has a licensed capacity of thirty (30) beds or less;

5.3.a.4. any administrator who is also director of nursing services or who has any other dual capacity in any other nursing home regardless of whether or not the second home is within reasonable proximity shall obtain prior Board approval to serve in that dual capacity;

5.3.a.5. the nursing home administrator, upon receipt of a license, is responsible for any nursing home which he or she administers, while meeting all applicable state and federal laws and rules and regulations; and

5.3.a.6. any emeritus status administrator, upon approval of the Board, shall be permitted the privilege of limited practice not to exceed an average of forty (40) hours per week for up to six (6) cumulative months per year.

### 5.4. Emergency Permit.

5.4.a. If a licensed nursing home administrator dies or is unable to continue as the administrator for an unexpected cause, the owner or governing body or other appropriate person in charge of the nursing home involved may designate an acting authority as administrator. The Board may issue an emergency permit to the acting administrator if it finds the appointment will not endanger the safety of the occupants of the nursing home.

5.4.b. An emergency permit is valid for a maximum of six (6) months and is not renewable.

5.4.c. The fee for an emergency permit is Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) and shall be submitted in the form of a certified check or money order, and is non-refundable.

5.5. Temporary Permit.

5.5.a. The Board may issue a temporary permit for a period of ninety (90) days, to an applicant for a reciprocity license who has accepted employment in the State of West Virginia, but who must wait for the Board to meet to act on his or her application. The temporary permit may be renewed at the discretion of the Board.

5.5.b. The fee for a temporary permit is Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) and shall be submitted in the form of a certified check or money order, and is non-refundable.

5.6. Lost, mutilated or destroyed licenses.

5.6.a. Upon receipt of satisfactory evidence that a license has been lost, mutilated or destroyed, the Board shall issue a duplicate license upon payment of a fee of Five Dollars (\$5.00).

5.7. Return of license.

5.7.a. The administrator shall return the license certificate and/or duplicate copies to the Board immediately upon revocation of the license or request by the Board.

**§21-1-6. Suspension or Revocation, Hearing and Judicial Review.**

6.1. Suspension or revocation of license or permits.

6.1.a. The Board may at any time upon its own motion and shall upon verified written complaint of any person, conduct an investigation to determine whether there are any grounds for the suspension or revocation of a license or permit issued pursuant to this Rule.

6.1.b. The Board ~~shall~~ may suspend or revoke any license or permit when it finds the licensee or holder of a temporary permit has:

6.1.b.1. obtained a license or permit by means of fraud or deceit;

6.1.b.2. failed or refused to comply with the provisions of this Rule, or with the provisions of W. Va. Code §16-5C-1, et seq.; or

6.1.b.3. failed or refused to comply with the expectations contained in the Code of Ethics of the American College of Health Care Administrators, (2014).

6.1.c. When the Board suspends or revokes a license of a licensee, it shall notify the Office of Health Facility Licensure and Certification (OHFLAC) of its actions.

6.2. Complaints and hearing procedures.

6.2.a. Complaints.

6.2.a.1. Any person, public officer, association or the Board may register a complaint against any licensee, Administrator-in-Training (AIT) or holder of an emergency or temporary permit for any of the reasons specified in subsection 6.1. of this Rule. The complaint, submitted to the Board shall be in writing and duly verified.

6.2.a.2. When the Board receives a notice by the Office of Health Facility Licensure and Certification (OHFLAC) citing a Medicare/Medicaid certified nursing facility of providing substandard quality of care, the Board shall take immediate action in accordance with the Substandard Quality of Care Policy.

6.2.a.3. Substandard Quality of Care Policy:

As a result of sections 1819(a), (b), (c), (d), and 1919(a), (b), (c), and (d) of The Social Security Act, state survey agencies like the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR), Office of Health Facility Licensure and Certification (OHFLAC) are required to advise state boards responsible for licensing nursing home administrators when a Medicare/Medicaid certified nursing facility is cited for deficiencies which constitute substandard quality of care. Inasmuch as there are no further directives for interpretation as to how state licensing boards will manage such notifications, it is the prerogative of each state's board to define its policy.

It will be the policy of the West Virginia Nursing Home Administrators Licensing Board to pursue the following plan in discharging its duties:

Upon notification from OHFLAC, a certified letter will be sent to the administrator of record\* for the facility alleged to have offered substandard quality of care indicating same and requesting a response from the administrator to each of the allegations. If the current administrator of record has been at the facility for less than one year, the previous administrator of record will also be contacted to address in writing each allegation of substandard quality of care. The administrator's reply must be postmarked no later than thirty (30) days after receipt of the Board's letter.

Upon receipt of the response from the administrator and within ninety (90) days of the day the board receives notification from OHFLAC, under the direction of the chair of the West Virginia Nursing Home Administrators Licensing Board, an assessment by staff, members of the board, and/or a representative from the Attorney General's Office will be made of all documents received (i.e., HCFA-2567 Statements of Deficiency and Plans of Correction, administrator's response, etc.). From that point a brief written assessment of the facts will be made and filed with the chairman of the board indicating whether or not it is believed nursing home administrator licensing regulations were violated. If the written assessment establishes that the nursing home administrators licensing regulations were violated, the chair of the board will be responsible for seeing that an interview is scheduled with the administrator to assess his/her knowledge and soundness of judgment in being able to adequately discharge the functions of a nursing home administrator (NHA). If it is shown by a preponderance of the evidence that nursing home administrator licensure rules were violated, a written order with findings of fact and conclusions of law will be sent to the administrator with a copy filed in the person's record defining the course of action that will follow. Likewise, if it is shown by a preponderance of the evidence that there were no violations of nursing home administrator licensure rules, a letter will be sent to the administrator so advising with a copy of the correspondence to be retained in the licensee's file.

Related to the aforementioned point and establishment of grounds for potential action against a nursing home administrator for violation of nursing home administrators licensure rules, with legal guidance, i.e., the West Virginia Attorney General's Office, private counsel, etc., section 6.1 of Title 21, legislative rule effective July 3, 2003 will be implemented pertinent to suspension, revocation, hearing, and judicial review. Final disposition of the review will be completed as quickly as possible but not to exceed 150 days from date of the first notification of substandard quality of care by the OHFLAC. Proceedings in regard to final disposition will be made in the record and retained in the board's file for the NHA under review.

If within twenty-four months of first being advised by Office of Health Facility and Certification (OHFLAC) a ~~second~~ subsequent notice is received by the Nursing Home Administrators Licensing Board alleging substandard quality of care in a facility under the direction of the same licensed nursing home administrator; within the same time lines as previously described, at the direction of the chair of the board, the board will conduct a second interview on the issue of substandard quality of care. Facts from the first review will be revisited along with all new allegations of repeat deficiencies. The process identified in previous points 2 and 3 will be replicated relative to section 6.1. Final disposition of the board's action will be recorded and retained in appropriate NHA and/or board files.

From the time the West Virginia Nursing Home Administrators Licensing Board is first advised by OHFLAC of alleged substandard quality of care in a West Virginia licensed nursing facility, all correspondence and records pertinent to the administrator and/or administrators in question will be retained for thirty months. During this period if follow up reviews by OHFLAC do not result in subsequent referrals to the Nursing Home Administrators Licensing Board for matters of substandard quality of care, the board at its discretion may order cases closed with files destroyed. If this occurs, such action will be considered at a duly called board meeting with the decision recorded in board minutes.

~~If the administrator of record has been at the facility for less than one year, the previous administrator of record will also be contacted to address in writing each allegation of substandard quality of care.~~

#### 6.2.b. Preliminary hearings.

6.2.b.1. The Board, or any person or persons appointed by it, may hold a preliminary hearing to determine whether a formal hearing on the charges is necessary. The Board shall give the person against whom the complaint has been registered, written notice of the date, time and place of the preliminary hearing.

6.2.b.2. The Board may dismiss the complaint and take no action on the complaint, by formal hearing or otherwise. In that event the Board shall file and make a part of its record the complaint and the order dismissing the complaint. If the Board does not dismiss the complaint, it shall hold a formal hearing in accordance with subsection 6.3 of this Rule.

#### 6.3. Procedures for hearing.

6.3.a. The Board may deny a license, renewal of a license or permit pursuant to W. Va. Code §§30-25-1 et seq. and 30-1-1 et seq.

6.3.b. Whenever the Board denies an application for any original or renewal license or denies an application for an emergency permit it shall make and enter an order to that effect and serve a copy of the order on the applicant licensee, or permittee as the case may be, by certified mail, return receipt requested. If the applicant desires to challenge the Board's order denying the application, the applicant shall request a hearing. The request shall be made in writing to the Board within twenty (20) days after receipt of the order.

6.3.c Whenever the Board determines that there is probable cause to believe a permit holder or licensee has violated W. Va. Code §30-25-1 et seq. or any provision of this rule the Board shall serve upon the licensee, by certified mail, return receipt requested, a copy of the notice of hearing. The notice of hearing shall provide the licensee with notice of the charges being brought against him or her.

6.3.d. All of the pertinent provisions of W. Va. Code §§29A-5-1, and 30-1-1 et seq., apply to and govern the hearing and the administrative procedures in connection with and following the hearing.

6.3.e. Upon conclusion of the hearing, the Board may revoke the license of the licensee, or an emergency or temporary permit, or take other disciplinary action or dismiss the charges.

6.3.f. An order of suspension made by the Board may contain provisions regarding reinstatement of the license or permit.

6.3.g. The Board, in its discretion, may direct a rehearing or take additional evidence, and may rescind or affirm the prior order after the rehearing, but nothing in this section precludes appropriate relief under and pursuant to the laws providing for the review of an administrative determination by the courts of the state.

6.3.h. All disciplinary hearings shall be published within the Nursing Home Administrators Licensing Board website to allow the public communities, resident's families and facility staff access to the date, time and location of hearing.

6.3.i. The order of the Board is final unless reversed, vacated or modified upon judicial review of the order in accordance with the provisions of subsection 6.4. of this Rule.

6.4. Judicial review; Appeal to Supreme Court of Appeals.

6.4.a. Any person adversely affected by an order of the Board rendered after a hearing held in accordance with the provisions of subsection 6.3. of this Rule, is entitled to judicial review of the decision. All of the pertinent provisions of W. Va. Code §29A-5-1, et seq. apply to and govern the judicial review.

6.4.b. The judgment of the circuit court is final unless reversed, vacated or modified on appeal to the Supreme Court of Appeals in accordance with the provisions of W. Va. Code §29A-6-1, et seq.

**§21-1-7. Reciprocity.**

7.1. The Board in its discretion, and subject to W. Va. Code §30-25-9 prescribing the qualifications for a nursing home administrator license, may grant a nursing home administrator license to an individual licensed in another state, who possesses the qualifications and meets the reasonable standards prescribed by the Board pursuant to W. Va. Code §30-25-8 and upon payment of a fee of Six Hundred Dollars (\$600.00).

7.1.a. Applicants who hold current certification from the American College of Health Care Administrator's ~~and are in good standing with the College, or other such nationally approved certification~~ shall have their applications acted upon immediately upon receipt; therefore, expediting the reciprocity process.

7.1. b. Additionally, the following conditions shall be met:

7.1. b.1. the other state maintains a system and standard of qualification and examination for a nursing home administrator license, which is at least as great as those required in West Virginia;

7.1. b.2. the other state gives similar recognition and reciprocity to nursing home administrators licenses of West Virginia; and

7.1. b.3. the applicant for reciprocity holds a current license as a nursing home administrator which has not been revoked or suspended.

7.1. b.4. the applicant for reciprocity must pass a Federal query investigation by the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB).

7.1. c. A nursing home administrator licensed in this state seeking reciprocity or endorsement into another state and requiring Board verification of licensure, shall submit a fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) to the Board for this verification.

#### **§21-1-8. Restoration.**

8.1. The Board may restore a license after revocation upon submission of evidence satisfactory to the Board that the applicant for the restoration of a license has ~~removed the disability~~ met the conditions required by the Board.

#### 8.2. Restoration after lapse.

8.2. a. The Board may reinstate a license which has lapsed during the first year immediately following the expiration date of a valid permanent administrator license. The Nursing Home Administrator with a lapsed license shall submit a formal request as well as an application for licensure along with the proper fee and meet the requirements for continuing education hours.

8.2. b. The nursing home administrator seeking reinstatement shall pay a late charge for reinstatement of license, in addition to the licensure renewal fee.

8.2. b.1. The Board shall impose the following reinstatement fees:

8.2.b.1.A. July 1, through September 30<sup>th</sup> - one hundred dollars (\$100.00).

8.2.b.1.B. July 1, through December 31<sup>st</sup> - two hundred dollars (\$200.00).

8.2.b.1.C. July 1, through March 31<sup>st</sup> - three hundred dollars (\$300.00).

8.2.b.1.D. July 1, through June 30<sup>th</sup> - four hundred dollars (\$400.00).

8.2.c. ~~After one (1) year from the expiration date of his or her license, the Board shall consider the nursing home administrator in question as a new applicant and the applicant is subject to all of the provisions of this Rule.~~ The Board, in its discretion, may reinstate the license of a previously licensed WV Nursing Home Administrator whose license has lapsed for more than one year from its date of expiration and may grant a waiver for retesting. The applicant must submit a formal request along with an application that includes, but is not limited to, the applicant's professional history, the applicant's criminal history, good cause for the lapse and evidence of at least 20 hours of continuing education hours completed in the 12 months prior to his or her request for a reinstated license. The applicant must also pay a fee of five hundred (\$500). If the Board does not grant the request to reinstate the license, the applicant will be treated as a new applicant under this rule and shall be required to complete all requirements and pay all applicable fees associated with a new application.

#### **§21-1-9. Refunds.**

**21CSR1**

9.1. The Board shall refund to all applicants that choose to withdraw from the application process their entire application fee minus a ~~any~~ processing fee of \$100.00. Refunds are applicable to fees for the following:

- 9.1.a. An Administrator-in-Training (AIT) application;
- 9.1.b. A licensure examination application; and
- 9.1.c. A reciprocity application.