

NEBRASKA LICENSURE UPDATE & MEMBER ENGAGEMENT



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This is Nebraska!



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What is the Intent of Nebraska License

- In Nebraska, any state level license, whether that be LMNT or a licensed cosmetologist or a licensed plumber, etc. is to protect the public from harm.
- Our current licensure is for Medical Nutrition Therapy (assessment, intervention and evaluation) as it pertains to a disease process for which nutrition intervention is an essential component of standard care.
- It does not include the practice of general nutrition, weight management or wellness, which includes sports nutrition.



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Why evaluate our licensure law now?

There are three reasons why we are evaluating the Statute relating to the Medical Nutrition Therapy Practice Act:

- Governor Ricketts signed the Major Occupational Licensing Reform Package (LB731) in May 2018 with the intent to limit restrictions on who can perform currently licensed occupations and to increase jobs. **LMNT was selected for the 1st round of reviews**
- In the Fall of 2018, the Board of Certified Nutrition Specialists requested permission from the Board of Medical Nutrition Therapy to practice medical nutrition therapy in Nebraska.
- The MNT Practice Act (our current law) education requirements will become outdated with 2024 Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) education requirements to become RDN-eligible.



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Certified Nutrition Specialist

- CNS Certification mimics very closely the ACEND requirements
 - *Lacks accreditation of the supervised experience requirement*
- These individuals are highly educated medical professionals – MD's, DO's, Nursing PhD's, Pharmacists, Nutrition PhD's, etc.
- RDNs are eligible for the certification; however 0 carry this certification in Nebraska



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Changes to ACEND Requirements

- Current law has the inclusion of Didactic Programs
 - *Bachelors from accredited college or university with a major course of study in human nutrition, food and nutrition, dietetics or equivalent major course of study approved by the board.*
 - *Completed a supervised clinical experience (Internship)*
- Beginning in 2024, a masters degree will be required to be eligible to sit for the RD exam
- Both UNL and UNMC are moving to Future Education Model Graduate Programs and will no longer have DPD programs after 2022.
- Linda Young provided a great description of the transition of the DPD to the Future Education Model Graduate Program in the NAND Spring Newsletter found on our website:
 - <https://mailchi.mp/a2236ef9ce54/spring-2019-nand-newsletter-561007>



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Why Proceed with a Statute Revision?

- Opportunity to better define the scope of practice of Medical Nutrition Therapy to ensure public protection.
- Opportunity to define levels and pathways of licensure and scope of practice: RDN and other nutrition professionals.
- Current MNT Practice Act does not reflect the 2024 ACEND education requirements and does not mandate an accredited supervised practice for all routes of eligibility which could create harm to the public.



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Where We are At.....

- Hired a lobbyist
- Drafting bill (NJ, NC, PA, AZ)
- 407/Sunset Process
- Placeholder hearing on LB 1044 which looks at “diet prescription” on February 26



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Membership Engagement!

- Thank you to our Public Policy Team!
- Regional Meeting Updates – executive team
- Open “House” Meetings – executive team
- PR Committee
 - Listserv (haven’t used the Academy’s listserv resources yet)
 - National Nutrition Month: #Proud2BNebraskaRD
 - Facebook Updates
- Advocacy Day at the State Capital
- Annual Conference Committee
 - Public Policy on the agenda
- Finance Committee

