

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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HOUSE BILL 2397*

Short Title: Nursing Home Administrators Criminal History. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Bordsen, Farmer-Butterfield, Boylan, Pierce (Primary Sponsors); Carney, England, Fisher, Glazier, Harrison, Hughes, Hurley, Johnson, Justice, McLawhorn, Pate, Underhill, Wainwright, and Weiss.

Referred to: Aging, if favorable, Judiciary II.

May 26, 2008

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATORS TO OBTAIN CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECKS OF APPLICANTS FOR LICENSURE AS NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATORS, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE NORTH CAROLINA STUDY COMMISSION ON AGING.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. Chapter 90 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

"§ 90-288.01. Criminal history record checks of applicants for licensure.

(a) The following definitions apply in this section:

(1) Applicant. – A person applying for initial licensure pursuant to either G.S. 90-278 or G.S. 90-287 or applying for renewal of licensure pursuant to G.S. 90-286.

(2) Criminal History. – A history of conviction of a State crime, whether a misdemeanor or felony, that bears on an applicant's fitness for licensure as a nursing home administrator. The crimes include the criminal offenses set forth in any of the following Articles of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes: Article 5, Counterfeiting and Issuing Monetary Substitutes; Article 5A, Endangering Executive and Legislative Officers; Article 6, Homicide; Article 7A, Rape and Other Sex Offenses; Article 8, Assaults; Article 10, Kidnapping and Abduction; Article 13, Malicious Injury or Damage by Use of Explosive or Incendiary Device or Material; Article 14, Burglary and Other Housebreakings; Article 15, Arson and Other Burnings; Article 16, Larceny; Article 17, Robbery; Article 18, Embezzlement; Article 19, False Pretenses and Cheats; Article 19A, Obtaining Property or

1 Services by False or Fraudulent Use of Credit Devises or Other Means;
2 Article 19B, Financial Transaction Card Crime Act; Article 20,
3 Frauds; Article 21, Forgery; Article 26, Offenses Against Public
4 Morality and Decency; Article 26A, Adult Establishments; Article 27,
5 Prostitution; Article 28, Perjury; Article 29, Bribery; Article 31,
6 Misconduct in Public Office; Article 35, Offenses Against the Public
7 Peace; Article 36A, Riots and Civil Disorders; Article 39, Protection
8 of Minors; Article 40, Protection of the Family; Article 59, Public
9 Intoxication; and Article 60, Computer-Related Crime. The crimes
10 also include possession or sale of drugs in violation of the North
11 Carolina Controlled Substances Act in Article 5 of Chapter 90 of the
12 General Statutes and alcohol-related offenses including sale to
13 underage persons in violation of G.S. 18B-302 or driving while
14 impaired in violation of G.S. 20-138.1 through G.S. 20-138.5.

15 (b) Criminal History Record Check. – The Board may require a criminal history
16 record check of an applicant. Refusal to consent to a criminal history record check may
17 constitute grounds for the Board to deny licensure to an applicant. The Board may
18 require the applicants to obtain criminal history record checks from one or more
19 reporting services designed by the Board to provide criminal history record checks.
20 Each applicant is required to pay the designated service for the cost of the criminal
21 history record check. In the alternative, the Board may provide to the North Carolina
22 Department of Justice the fingerprints of the applicant to be checked, a form signed by
23 the applicant consenting to the criminal history record check and the use of fingerprints
24 and other identifying information required by the State or National Repositories, and
25 any additional information required by the Department of Justice. The Board shall keep
26 all information obtained pursuant to this section confidential. The Board shall collect
27 any fees required by the Department of Justice and shall remit the fees to the
28 Department of Justice for expenses associated with conducting the criminal history
29 record check.

30 (c) Convictions. – If the applicant's criminal history record check reveals one or
31 more convictions listed under subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section, the
32 conviction shall not automatically bar licensure. The Board shall consider all of the
33 following factors regarding the conviction:

- 34 (1) The level of seriousness of the crime.
- 35 (2) The date of the crime.
- 36 (3) The age of the person at the time of the conviction.
- 37 (4) The circumstances surrounding the commission of the crime, if known.
- 38 (5) The nexus between the criminal conduct of the person and the job
39 duties of the position to be filled.
- 40 (6) The person's prison, jail, probation, parole, rehabilitation, and
41 employment records since the date the crime was committed.
- 42 (7) The subsequent commission by the person of a crime listed in
43 subsection (a) of this section.

1 (d) Denial of Licensure. – If the Board refuses to issue or renew a license based
2 on information obtained in a criminal history record check, the Board must disclose to
3 the person the information contained in the criminal history record check that is relevant
4 to the Board's actions. The Board shall not provide a copy of the criminal history record
5 check to the person. A person has the right to appear before the Board to appeal the
6 Board's decision. An appearance before the Board shall constitute an exhaustion of
7 administrative remedies in accordance with Chapter 150B of the General Statutes.

8 (e) Limited Immunity. – The Board, its officers and employees, acting in good
9 faith and in compliance with this section, shall be immune from civil liability for its
10 actions based on information provided in an applicant's criminal history record check."

11 **SECTION 2.** Chapter 114 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a
12 new section to read:

13 **"§ 114-19.11. Criminal history record checks of applicants for licensure as nursing**
14 **home administrators.**

15 The Department of Justice may provide to the North Carolina State Board of
16 Examiners for Nursing Home Administrators from the State and National Repositories
17 of Criminal Histories the criminal history of any applicant for licensure as a nursing
18 home administrator under Article 20 of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes. Along with
19 the request, the Board shall provide to the Department of Justice the fingerprints of the
20 applicant, a form signed by the applicant consenting to the criminal history record check
21 and use of fingerprints and other identifying information required by the State and
22 National Repositories, and any additional information required by the Department of
23 Justice. The applicant's fingerprints shall be forwarded to the State Bureau of
24 Investigation for a national criminal history record check. The Board shall keep all
25 information obtained pursuant to this section confidential. The Department of Justice
26 may charge a fee to offset the cost incurred by it to conduct a criminal history record
27 check under this section. The fee shall not exceed the actual cost of locating, editing,
28 researching, and retrieving the information."

29 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.