

SENATE, No. 1941

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

213th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 9, 2008

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE

District 19 (Middlesex)

Senator ROBERT W. SINGER

District 30 (Burlington, Mercer, Monmouth and Ocean)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Madden, Sweeney and Bucco

SYNOPSIS

"Dietitian/Nutritionist Licensing Act."

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/3/2008)

1 AN ACT providing for the licensing of dietitians/nutritionists,
2 supplementing Title 45 of the Revised Statutes and amending
3 P.L.1971, c.60, P.L.1974, c.46 and P.L.1978, c.73.

4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

7

8 1. (New section) This act shall be known and may be cited as
9 the "Dietitian/Nutritionist Licensing Act."

10

11 2. (New section) The Legislature finds and declares that the
12 public interest requires the regulation of the practice of
13 dietetics/nutrition and the establishment of clear licensure standards
14 for nutritionists and dietitians; and that the health and welfare of the
15 residents of the State will be protected by identifying to the public
16 those individuals who are qualified and legally authorized to
17 practice dietetics/nutrition.

18

19 3. (New section) As used in this act:

20 "Board" means the State Board of Dietitians/Nutritionists
21 established pursuant to section 4 of this act.

22 "Dietetics/nutrition" means the integration and application of
23 scientific principles derived from the study of food, nutrition,
24 biochemistry, physiology, food management and from behavioral
25 and social sciences in achieving and maintaining health throughout
26 the life span and in providing medical nutrition therapy for the
27 treatment of disease. It includes, but is not limited to: nutrition
28 assessment; nutrition diagnosis; nutrition intervention; monitoring
29 and evaluation of nutrition care plans; nutrition support, including
30 parenteral and enteral nutrition; nutritional counseling and
31 education; and the development and administration of nutrition care
32 standards and systems.

33 "Director" means the Director of the Division of Consumer
34 Affairs in the Department of Law and Public Safety.

35 "Licensed dietitian/nutritionist" means a person who is licensed
36 pursuant to the provisions of this act. The terms dietitian and
37 nutritionist are used interchangeably in this act.

38 "Medical nutritional therapy" means nutritional diagnostic,
39 therapeutic and counseling services for the purpose of disease
40 management.

41

42 4. (New section) There is created within the Division of
43 Consumer Affairs in the Department of Law and Public Safety the
44 State Board of Dietitians/Nutritionists. The board shall consist of
45 eight members who are residents of the State, two of whom shall be

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 public members and one of whom shall be a State executive
2 department member appointed pursuant to the provisions of
3 P.L.1971, c.60 (C.45:1-2.1 et seq.). Of the remaining five
4 members, four shall be, except for the members first appointed,
5 licensed dietitians/nutritionists under the provisions of this act and
6 shall have been actively engaged in the practice of
7 dietetics/nutrition in the State for at least five years immediately
8 preceding their appointment, as follows: one shall be a
9 dietitian/nutritionist whose primary practice is clinical nutrition;
10 one shall be a dietitian/nutritionist whose primary practice is
11 community or public health nutrition; one shall be a
12 dietitian/nutritionist whose primary practice is management of
13 clinical nutritional services or consulting in nutrition; and one shall
14 be a dietitian/nutritionist teaching in a college or university with an
15 accredited dietetic education program; and the remaining member
16 shall be a physician licensed to practice medicine and surgery
17 pursuant to chapter 9 of Title 45 of the Revised Statutes.

18 The Governor shall appoint the two public members and the
19 State executive department member and shall appoint the remaining
20 five members with the advice and consent of the Senate. Each
21 member, other than the State executive department member, shall
22 be appointed for a term of three years, except that of the
23 dietitian/nutritionist members first appointed, two shall serve for a
24 term of three years, one shall serve for a term of two years and one
25 shall serve for a term of one year. Any vacancy in the membership
26 of the board shall be filled for the unexpired term in the manner
27 provided by the original appointment. No member of the board
28 may serve more than two successive terms in addition to any
29 unexpired term to which he has been appointed.

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31 5. (New section) Members of the board shall be compensated
32 and reimbursed for expenses and provided with office and meeting
33 facilities pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1977, c.285 (C.45:1-2.5).

34

35 6. (New section) The board shall organize within 30 days after
36 the appointment of its members and shall annually elect from
37 among its members a chairperson and vice-chairperson, and a
38 secretary who need not be a member of the board. The board shall
39 meet twice a year and may hold additional meetings as necessary to
40 discharge its duties. A majority of the board membership shall
41 constitute a quorum.

42

43 7. (New section) The board shall:

- 44 a. Review the qualifications of applicants for licensure;
 - 45 b. Adopt a code of ethics;
 - 46 c. Insure the proper conduct and standards of examinations;
 - 47 d. Issue and renew biennial licenses for dietitians/nutritionists
- 48 pursuant to this act;

- 1 e. Refuse to admit a person to an examination or refuse to issue
2 or suspend, revoke or fail to renew the license of a
3 dietitian/nutritionist pursuant to the provisions of P.L.1978, c.73
4 (C.45:1-14 et seq.);
- 5 f. Maintain a record of every dietitian/nutritionist licensed in
6 this State, their place of business, place of residence and the date
7 and number of their license;
- 8 g. Prescribe or change the charges for examinations, licenses,
9 renewals and other services it performs pursuant to P.L.1974, c.46
10 (C.45:1-3.1 et seq.), and set the passing score on any examination it
11 adopts as a licensure examination;
- 12 h. Establish rules and regulations with respect to continuing
13 education requirements; and
- 14 i. Adopt and promulgate rules and regulations pursuant to the
15 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
16 seq.) necessary to effectuate the purposes of this act.
17
- 18 8. (New section) No person shall practice dietetics/nutrition
19 whether compensated or not unless the person holds a valid license
20 to practice in this State, except nothing in this act shall be construed
21 to:
- 22 a. Prohibit any person licensed to practice or certified to teach
23 in this State under any other law from engaging in the practice or
24 teaching for which he is licensed, regulated or certified;
- 25 b. Prohibit any student enrolled in a school or post-graduate
26 course of dietetics/nutrition recognized by the board, from
27 performing that which is necessary to the student's course of study;
- 28 c. Prohibit any person from practicing dietetics/nutrition within
29 the scope of his official duties when employed by an agency, bureau
30 or division of the federal government, serving in the Armed Forces
31 or the United States Public Health Service or employed by the
32 United States Department of Veterans Affairs or any State
33 institution or facility;
- 34 d. Prohibit any person who does not hold himself out to be a
35 dietitian/nutritionist from furnishing nutritional information as to
36 the use of food, food materials or dietary supplements or from
37 engaging in the explanation to persons as to the use of food or food
38 products including dietary supplements;
- 39 e. Prohibit any person involved in presenting a general
40 program of instruction for weight control provided the program has
41 been approved in writing by a licensed dietitian/nutritionist, a
42 dietitian/nutritionist licensed in another state that has licensure
43 requirements substantially equivalent to those of this State, as
44 determined by the board, a dietitian registered by the Commission
45 on Dietetic Registration of the American Dietetic Association, or a
46 licensed physician; or
- 47 f. Prohibit a dietetic technician from providing nutrition
48 services under the supervision of a licensed dietitian/nutritionist.

- 1 9. (New section) To be eligible to be licensed as a
2 dietitian/nutritionist an applicant shall fulfill the following
3 requirements:
- 4 a. Be at least 18 years of age;
 - 5 b. Be of good moral character;
 - 6 c. (1) Provide evidence of current registration as a Registered
7 Dietitian by the Commission on Dietetic Registration of the
8 American Dietetic Association; or
9 (2) (a) Have received a minimum of a baccalaureate degree from
10 a United States regionally accredited college or university with a
11 major course of study in nutritional sciences, human nutrition,
12 foods and nutrition, dietetics, community nutrition, public health
13 nutrition, nutrition education or an equivalent major course of
14 study, as approved by the board, and have successfully completed
15 minimum course requirements in food sciences, social and
16 behavioral sciences, chemistry, biology, human nutrition and
17 medical nutrition therapy, as determined by the board; or in the case
18 of an applicant who has obtained his education outside of the
19 United States, its possessions or the District of Columbia, shall have
20 his academic degree validated by the board as being equivalent to a
21 baccalaureate or master's degree conferred by a United States
22 regionally accredited college or university; and
23 (b) Have successfully completed a planned clinical program in
24 an approved practice of dietetics/nutrition of not less than 900 hours
25 under the supervision of: a dietitian/nutritionist licensed in this
26 State or licensed, registered or certified in any other state having
27 requirements for licensure, registration or certification substantially
28 similar to licensure requirements in this State, as approved by the
29 board; or a registered dietitian registered by the Commission on
30 Dietetic Registration of the American Dietetic Association; and
31 (c) Have passed an examination given by the Commission on
32 Dietetic Registration of the American Dietetic Association to
33 practice dietetics/nutrition; or
34 (3) (a) Have received from a United States regionally accredited
35 college or university a master's degree or doctorate in
36 dietetics/nutritional sciences, human nutrition, foods and nutrition,
37 dietetics, community nutrition, public health nutrition, nutrition
38 education or an equivalent major course of study, as approved by
39 the board, and have successfully completed minimum course
40 requirements in food sciences, social and behavioral sciences,
41 chemistry, biology, human nutrition and medical nutrition therapy,
42 as determined by the board; or in the case of an applicant who has
43 obtained his education outside of the United States, its possessions
44 or the District of Columbia, shall have his academic degree
45 validated by the board as being equivalent to a master's degree or
46 doctorate conferred by a United States regionally accredited college
47 or university; and

1 (b) Have a documented supervised experience in the United
2 States in the practice of dietetics/nutrition of not less than 900 hours
3 under the supervision of: a dietitian/nutritionist licensed in this
4 State or licensed, registered or certified in any other state having
5 requirements for licensure, registration or certification substantially
6 similar to licensure requirements in this State, as approved by the
7 board; a registered dietitian registered by the Commission on
8 Dietetic Registration of the American Dietetic Association; or a
9 licensed physician; and

10 (c) Have passed an examination given by the Commission on
11 Dietetic Registration of the American Dietetic Association to
12 practice dietetics/nutrition.

13 (d) The examination required pursuant to subparagraph (c) of
14 paragraph (2) and of subparagraph (c) of paragraph (3) of
15 subsection c. of this section shall be held by the board at least twice
16 a year and may be administered by a national testing service, as
17 determined by the board.

18

19 10. (New section) The board shall issue a license to any
20 applicant who, in the opinion of the board, has satisfactorily met all
21 the requirements of this act.

22 Except in the case of a temporary license issued pursuant to
23 section 14 of this act, all licenses shall be issued for a two-year
24 period upon the payment of the licensure fee prescribed by the
25 board, and shall be renewed upon filing of a renewal application,
26 the payment of a licensure fee and presentation of satisfactory
27 evidence that the renewal applicant has successfully completed the
28 continuing education requirements prescribed by the board by
29 regulation.

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31 11. (New section) Upon payment to the board of a fee and the
32 submission of a written application on forms provided by it, the
33 board shall license without examination a nutritionist or dietitian
34 who is licensed, registered or certified by another state or
35 possession of the United States or the District of Columbia which
36 has standards substantially equivalent to those of this State.

37

38 12. (New section) For a period of one year after the effective
39 date of this act, any person who is practicing or residing in this
40 State on the effective date of this act may qualify as a licensed
41 dietitian/nutritionist upon application for licensure and payment of
42 the appropriate fee, provided the applicant furnishes evidence
43 satisfactory to the board that he has received a baccalaureate or
44 higher academic degree from a United States regionally accredited
45 college or university with a minimum of 30 credit hours or a major
46 concentration of study in human nutrition, foods and nutrition, food
47 systems management, nutritional science, nutritional education or
48 related courses approved by the board; and has been employed at

1 least half-time as a dietitian/nutritionist for three of the last five
2 years immediately preceding the effective date of this act.

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4 13. (New section) No person, business entity or its employees,
5 agents or representatives shall use the titles, "dietitian/nutritionist,"
6 "nutritionist," "dietitian," "dietician," "nutrition counselor,"
7 "nutrition consultant," "nutrition specialist," "LDN," "LD," "LN,"
8 or any other title, designation, words, letters, abbreviations or
9 insignia indicating the practice of dietetics/nutrition unless licensed
10 to practice dietetics/nutrition under the provisions of this act.

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12 14. (New section) a. Upon payment to the board of a fee and
13 the submission of a written application on forms provided by it, the
14 board shall issue a temporary license to a person who has applied
15 for licensure pursuant to this act and who, in the judgment of the
16 board, is eligible for examination. A temporary license shall be
17 available to an applicant with his initial application for examination
18 and he may practice only under the direct supervision of a licensed
19 dietitian/nutritionist. A temporary license shall expire automatically
20 upon failure of the licensure examination but may be renewed until
21 the date of the next examination at which time it shall automatically
22 expire and be surrendered to the board.

23 b. Upon payment to the board of a fee and the submission of a
24 written application on forms provided by it, the board may issue
25 without examination a temporary license to practice
26 dietetics/nutrition in this State to a person who provides evidence
27 that he is in the State on a temporary basis to assist in a medical
28 emergency or engage in a special project or teaching assignment
29 relating to dietetics/nutrition. A temporary license shall expire one
30 year from its date of issuance, but it may be renewed by the board
31 for an additional one year period. This temporary license shall be
32 surrendered to the board upon its expiration.

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34 15. Section 1 of P.L.1971, c.60 (C.45:1-2.1) is amended to read
35 as follows:

36 1. The provisions of this act shall apply to the following boards
37 and commissions: the New Jersey State Board of Accountancy, the
38 New Jersey State Board of Architects, the New Jersey State Board
39 of Cosmetology and Hairstyling, the Board of Examiners of
40 Electrical Contractors, the New Jersey State Board of Dentistry, the
41 State Board of Mortuary Science of New Jersey, the State Board of
42 Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, the State Board of
43 Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners, the State Board of
44 Medical Examiners, the New Jersey Board of Nursing, the New
45 Jersey State Board of Optometrists, the State Board of Examiners of
46 Ophthalmic Dispensers and Ophthalmic Technicians, the Board of
47 Pharmacy, the State Board of Professional Planners, the State Board
48 of Psychological Examiners, the State Board of Examiners of

1 Master Plumbers, the New Jersey Real Estate Commission, the
2 State Board of Court Reporting, the State Board of Veterinary
3 Medical Examiners, the Radiologic Technology Board of
4 Examiners, the Acupuncture Examining Board, the State Board of
5 Chiropractic Examiners, the State Board of Respiratory Care, the
6 State Real Estate Appraiser Board, the State Board of Social Work
7 Examiners, the State Board of Examiners of Heating, Ventilating,
8 Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Contractors, the State Board of
9 Physical Therapy Examiners, the Orthotics and Prosthetics Board of
10 Examiners, the New Jersey Cemetery Board, the State Board of
11 Polysomnography, the New Jersey Board of Massage and
12 Bodywork Therapy, the State Board of Dietitians/Nutritionists and
13 any other entity hereafter created under Title 45 to license or
14 otherwise regulate a profession or occupation.
15 (cf: P.L.2007, c.337, s.10)

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17 16. Section 1 of P.L.1974, c.46 (C.45:1-3.1) is amended to read
18 as follows:

19 1. The provisions of this act shall apply to the following boards
20 and commissions: the New Jersey State Board of Accountancy, the
21 New Jersey State Board of Architects, the New Jersey State Board
22 of Cosmetology and Hairstyling, the Board of Examiners of
23 Electrical Contractors, the New Jersey State Board of Dentistry, the
24 State Board of Mortuary Science of New Jersey, the State Board of
25 Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, the State Board of
26 Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners, the State Board of
27 Medical Examiners, the New Jersey Board of Nursing, the New
28 Jersey State Board of Optometrists, the State Board of Examiners of
29 Ophthalmic Dispensers and Ophthalmic Technicians, the Board of
30 Pharmacy, the State Board of Professional Planners, the State Board
31 of Psychological Examiners, the State Board of Examiners of
32 Master Plumbers, the State Board of Court Reporting, the State
33 Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, the Radiologic
34 Technology Board of Examiners, the Acupuncture Examining
35 Board, the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners, the State Board
36 of Respiratory Care, the State Real Estate Appraiser Board, the New
37 Jersey Cemetery Board, the State Board of Social Work Examiners,
38 the State Board of Examiners of Heating, Ventilating, Air
39 Conditioning and Refrigeration Contractors, the State Board of
40 Physical Therapy Examiners, the State Board of Polysomnography,
41 the Orthotics and Prosthetics Board of Examiners, the New Jersey
42 Board of Massage and Bodywork Therapy, the State Board of
43 Dietitians/Nutritionists and any other entity hereafter created under
44 Title 45 to license or otherwise regulate a profession or occupation.
45 (cf: P.L.2007, c.337, s.11)

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47 17. Section 2 of P.L.1978, c.73 (C.45:1-15) is amended to read
48 as follows:

1 2. The provisions of this act shall apply to the following boards
2 and all professions or occupations regulated by, through or with the
3 advice of those boards: the New Jersey State Board of
4 Accountancy, the New Jersey State Board of Architects, the New
5 Jersey State Board of Cosmetology and Hairstyling, the Board of
6 Examiners of Electrical Contractors, the New Jersey State Board of
7 Dentistry, the State Board of Mortuary Science of New Jersey, the
8 State Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, the
9 State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners, the State
10 Board of Medical Examiners, the New Jersey Board of Nursing, the
11 New Jersey State Board of Optometrists, the State Board of
12 Examiners of Ophthalmic Dispensers and Ophthalmic Technicians,
13 the Board of Pharmacy, the State Board of Professional Planners,
14 the State Board of Psychological Examiners, the State Board of
15 Examiners of Master Plumbers, the State Board of Court Reporting,
16 the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, the State Board
17 of Chiropractic Examiners, the State Board of Respiratory Care, the
18 State Real Estate Appraiser Board, the State Board of Social Work
19 Examiners, the State Board of Examiners of Heating, Ventilating,
20 Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Contractors, the State Board of
21 Physical Therapy Examiners, the State Board of Polysomnography,
22 the Professional Counselor Examiners Committee, the New Jersey
23 Cemetery Board, the Orthotics and Prosthetics Board of Examiners,
24 the Occupational Therapy Advisory Council, the Electrologists
25 Advisory Committee, the Acupuncture Advisory Committee, the
26 Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee, the Athletic Training
27 Advisory Committee, the Certified Psychoanalysts Advisory
28 Committee, the Fire Alarm, Burglar Alarm, and Locksmith
29 Advisory Committee, the Home Inspection Advisory Committee,
30 the Interior Design Examination and Evaluation Committee, the
31 Hearing Aid Dispensers Examining Committee, the Landscape
32 Architect Examination and Evaluation Committee, the Perfusionists
33 Advisory Committee, the Physician Assistant Advisory Committee,
34 the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Advisory
35 Committee, the New Jersey Board of Massage and Bodywork
36 Therapy, the State Board of Dietitians/Nutritionists and any other
37 entity hereafter created under Title 45 to license or otherwise
38 regulate a profession or occupation.

39 (cf: P.L.2007, c.337, s.12)

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41 18. The State Board of Dietitians/Nutritionists shall adopt rules
42 and regulations pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure Act,”
43 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), necessary to effectuate the
44 purposes of this act.

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46 19. This act shall take effect immediately, except that sections 8
47 and 13 of this act shall take effect on the 360th day following the
48 effective date.

STATEMENT

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This bill provides for the licensure of dietitians/nutritionists and establishes an eight-member State Board of Dietitians/Nutritionists in the Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Law and Public Safety to oversee their licensure. The board is to consist of four licensed dietitians/nutritionists, a physician, two public members and a State executive department member.

To be eligible for licensure as a dietitian/nutritionist an applicant must be at least 18 years old, be of good moral character and fulfill the following requirements:

Provide evidence of current registration as a Registered Dietitian by the Commission on Dietetic Registration of the American Dietetic Association; or

Have received a minimum of a baccalaureate degree from a United States regionally accredited college or university with a major course of study in nutritional sciences, human nutrition, foods and nutrition, dietetics, community nutrition, public health nutrition, nutrition education or an equivalent major course of study, as approved by the board, and have successfully completed minimum course requirements in food sciences, social and behavioral sciences, chemistry, biology, human nutrition and medical nutrition therapy, as determined by the board; or in the case of an applicant who has obtained his education outside of the United States, its possessions or the District of Columbia, shall have his academic degree validated by the board as being equivalent to a baccalaureate or master's degree conferred by a United States regionally accredited college or university; and

Have successfully completed a planned clinical program in an approved practice of dietetics/nutrition of not less than 900 hours under the supervision of: a dietitian/nutritionist licensed in this State or licensed, registered or certified in any other state having requirements for licensure, registration or certification substantially similar to licensure requirements in this State, as approved by the board; or a registered dietitian registered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration of the American Dietetic Association; and

Have passed an examination given by the Commission on Dietetic Registration of the American Dietetic Association to practice dietetics/nutrition; or

Have received from a United States regionally accredited college or university a master's degree or doctorate in nutritional sciences, human nutrition, foods and nutrition, dietetics, community nutrition, public health nutrition, nutrition education or an equivalent major course of study, as approved by the board, and have successfully completed minimum course requirements in food sciences, social and behavioral sciences, chemistry, biology, human nutrition and medical nutrition therapy, as determined by the board; or in the case of an applicant who has obtained his education

1 outside of the United States, its possessions or the District of
2 Columbia, shall have his academic degree validated by the board as
3 being equivalent to a master's degree or doctorate conferred by a
4 United States regionally accredited college or university; and

5 Have a documented supervised experience in the United States in
6 the practice of dietetics/nutrition of not less than 900 hours under
7 the supervision of: a dietitian/nutritionist licensed in this State or
8 licensed, registered or certified in any other state having
9 requirements for licensure, registration or certification substantially
10 similar to licensure requirements in this State, as approved by the
11 board; a registered dietitian registered by the Commission on
12 Dietetic Registration of the American Dietetic Association; or a
13 licensed physician; and

14 Have passed an examination given by the Commission on
15 Dietetic Registration of the American Dietetic Association to
16 practice dietetics/nutrition.

17 The bill provides that no person may practice dietetics/nutrition
18 in this State unless that person holds a valid license. Those exempt
19 from this prohibition are: licensed professionals and certified
20 teachers in this State who are practicing or teaching within the
21 scope of their license or certificate; students enrolled in schools
22 with courses of dietetics/nutrition recognized by the board who are
23 performing that which is necessary to their course of study; federal
24 government employees, persons serving in the Armed Forces or the
25 United States Public Health Service or employed by the United
26 States Department of Veterans Affairs or any State institution or
27 facility who are practicing dietetics/nutrition within the scope of
28 their official duties; persons who do not hold themselves out to be
29 dietitians/nutritionists while furnishing general nutritional
30 information as to the use of food or food materials including dietary
31 supplements; persons involved in presenting a general program of
32 instruction for weight control provided the program has been
33 approved in writing by a licensed dietitian/nutritionist, a
34 dietitian/nutritionist licensed in another state that has licensure
35 requirements substantially equivalent to those of this State, as
36 determined by the board, a dietitian registered by the Commission
37 on Dietetic Registration, or a licensed physician; or a dietetic
38 technician who is providing nutrition services under the supervision
39 of a licensed dietitian/nutritionist.

40 For a period of one year after the effective date of the bill, a
41 person who is practicing or residing in the State on the effective
42 date of the bill may qualify as a licensed dietitian/nutritionist if that
43 person has a baccalaureate or higher academic degree from a United
44 States regionally accredited college or university with a minimum
45 of 30 credit hours or a major concentration of study in human
46 nutrition, foods and nutrition, food systems management, nutritional
47 science, nutritional education or related courses approved by the
48 board; and has been employed at least half-time as a dietitian/

1 nutritionist for three of the last five years. The bill also provides
2 for the licensure by the board by endorsement to nutritionists or
3 dietitians who have been licensed, registered or certified in another
4 state with standards substantially equivalent to those of this State.

5 As defined in the bill, "dietetics/nutrition" is the integration and
6 application of scientific principles derived from the study of food,
7 nutrition, biochemistry, physiology, food management and from
8 behavioral and social sciences in achieving and maintaining health
9 throughout the life span and in providing medical nutrition therapy
10 for the treatment of disease. It includes, but is not limited to:
11 nutrition assessment; nutrition diagnosis; nutrition intervention;
12 monitoring and evaluation of nutrition care plans; nutrition support,
13 including parenteral and enteral nutrition; nutritional counseling
14 and education; and the development and administration of nutrition
15 care standards and systems.

16 Dietitians/nutritionists play an important role in maintaining
17 health throughout the human lifespan as well as in treating illnesses
18 such as diabetes, heart disease, cancer, acute injury and other
19 medical conditions. They also improve the quality of life for
20 infants, children, pregnant females, elderly persons, poor and
21 overweight persons, chronically and terminally ill persons, and
22 fitness enthusiasts.

23 Consumers and patients are becoming increasingly concerned
24 about their diets and nutrition as well as the accuracy of the
25 information and services being offered to the public. Currently,
26 there are no clear means for the public to identify the qualifications
27 of persons providing dietetic/nutrition services and nutritional care.
28 The purpose of this bill is to protect the public health, safety and
29 welfare by establishing standards of qualification, training and
30 experience for individuals who practice as dietitians/nutritionists in
31 New Jersey.