



Diabetes Patient Protection/Diabetes Educator License – HB 1851

Sponsor: Will Tallman

Position: SUPPORT

HB 1851 will allow diabetes educators who meet provisions of this legislation to be Licensed Diabetes Educators in Pennsylvania.

House Bill 1851 will:

1. protect individuals with diabetes and
2. create a Licensed Diabetes Educator (LDE) license.

LDEs will be healthcare professionals such as nurses, dietitians, nutritionists, pharmacists, physicians, exercise physiologists, podiatrists, and others who provide people with diabetes the skills they need to self-manage the disease and delay or avoid costly complications.

How will one become a Licensed Diabetes Educator?

Under the provisions of this bill:

1. Those who already hold an active CDE or BC-ADM credential will be considered Licensed Diabetes Educators once they apply for and receive their license from the state of Pennsylvania. The fee for the license is not determined by the legislation, but by the Wolf Administration. No additional testing or requirements will be necessary. This legislation will not interfere with any current scope of practice or job responsibilities.
2. Those who do not hold a CDE or BC-ADM credential currently and who want to call themselves a Licensed Diabetes Educator will need to have a professional health-care background, pass the NCBDE licensure exam, and have a minimum of 250 hours of experience with diabetes education.

The licensing of diabetes educators will help patients and Pennsylvania for a number of reasons:

Currently, any person can claim that they are providing diabetes education, even if they do not have adequate training or specialized knowledge to ensure that quality care is being given to the person with diabetes.

Licensure will optimize patient care professionalizing diabetes education by creating minimum standards for licensed diabetes educators, ensuring that those who train individuals on how to self-manage their diabetes have the core competencies to do so.

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Licensure will lead to better health outcomes and will save our state's health care system money. This is because Diabetes Self-Management Training has a proven track record of lowering glycemic levels and reducing health-care costs.

The bill will also create a legal scope of practice for Licensed Diabetes Educators. Other healthcare professions have licensure requirements and a professional scope of practice that give them a legal standing for recognition by the Federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

If you have any questions about this legislation, please contact Pennsylvania AADE member Lisa Laird at Laird.lisa@gmail.com