

**House Study Bill 729 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
AND HUMAN SERVICES BILL BY  
CHAIRPERSON HARRIS)

**A BILL FOR**

- 1 An Act relating to certified medication aides.
- 2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. Section 135C.34, Code 2026, is amended to read as  
2 follows:

3 **135C.34 Medication aide — certification.**

4 1. The department of ~~inspections, appeals, and licensing,~~ in  
5 cooperation with other appropriate agencies, shall establish a  
6 procedure to allow a person who is certified as a medication  
7 aide in another state to become certified in this state upon  
8 completion and passage of ~~both the certified nurse aide and~~  
9 certified medication aide challenge ~~examinations~~ examination,  
10 without additional requirements for certification, including but  
11 not limited to, required employment in this state prior to  
12 certification.

13 2. a. The department shall establish a medication aide  
14 certification registry on the department's internet site. The  
15 medication aide certification registry shall allow a person  
16 offering a department-approved medication aide certification  
17 examination to submit proof that an individual successfully  
18 completed the department-approved medication aide certification  
19 examination.

20 b. The department shall not charge a fee for a person to  
21 submit or access proof that an individual successfully completed  
22 a department-approved medication aide certification examination.

23 3. The department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A  
24 to administer this section.

25 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. **135C.34A Medication aides — rules.**

26 The department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter  
27 17A governing properly trained persons charged with the  
28 responsibility of administering medications or a class of  
29 medications at residential care facilities, nursing facilities,  
30 residential care facilities with three-bed to five-bed  
31 specialized licenses, intermediate care facilities for the  
32 intellectually disabled, and intermediate care facilities for  
33 persons with mental illness, as applicable:

34 1. A rule authorizing a department-approved medication aide  
35 challenge examination to be administered by an area community

1 college shall also authorize other department-approved competency  
2 evaluation programs to administer a department-approved  
3 medication aide challenge examination.

4 2. A rule which states that before an individual may take  
5 a department-approved medication aide challenge examination in  
6 place of taking a medication aide course, the individual must  
7 provide to the community college a specified written statement,  
8 and also state that other department-approved competency  
9 evaluation programs can receive the statement.

10 3. A rule authorizing an individual who has written  
11 documentation of certification as a medication aide in another  
12 state to become a medication aide in Iowa shall not include  
13 successful completion of a department-approved nurse aide  
14 competency examination as a requirement for doing so.

15 4. Any rules necessary to ensure consistency in all  
16 provisions relating to certified medication aide training and  
17 qualifications.

18 Sec. 3. ADMINISTRATIVE RULES.

19 1. Rescission of administrative rules.

20 a. The following Iowa administrative rules are rescinded as  
21 of July 1, 2026:

22 (1) 481 Iowa administrative code, rule 57.19, subrule 3,  
23 paragraph "d".

24 (2) 481 Iowa administrative code, rule 57.19, subrule 3,  
25 paragraph "f", second sentence.

26 (3) 481 Iowa administrative code, rule 58.21, subrule 6,  
27 paragraph "c".

28 (4) 481 Iowa administrative code, rule 58.21, subrule 6,  
29 paragraph "d", subparagraph (4).

30 (5) 481 Iowa administrative code, rule 58.21, subrule 6,  
31 paragraph "e", unnumbered paragraph 2.

32 (6) 481 Iowa administrative code, rule 63.16, subrule 3,  
33 paragraph "d".

34 (7) 481 Iowa administrative code, rule 63.16, subrule 3,  
35 paragraph "f", second sentence.

1 (8) 481 Iowa administrative code, rule 64.4, subrule 9,  
2 paragraph "c", subparagraph (4).

3 (9) 481 Iowa administrative code, rule 65.17, subrule 1,  
4 paragraph "c".

5 (10) 481 Iowa administrative code, rule 65.17, subrule 1,  
6 paragraph "d", subparagraph (4).

7 (11) 481 Iowa administrative code, rule 65.17, subrule 1,  
8 paragraph "e", unnumbered paragraph 2.

9 b. As soon as practicable after July 1, 2026, the Iowa  
10 administrative code editor shall remove the language of the Iowa  
11 administrative rules referenced in paragraph "a" from the Iowa  
12 administrative code.

13 2. Conforming changes to rules. The department of  
14 inspections, appeals, and licensing shall engage in rulemaking  
15 pursuant to chapter 17A to make any conforming changes to rules  
16 necessary to implement this Act.

17 EXPLANATION

18 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
19 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

20 This bill relates to certified medication aides (medication  
21 aides).

22 The bill requires the department of inspections, appeals, and  
23 licensing (DIAL) to establish a medication aide certification  
24 registry (registry) on DIAL's internet site. The registry  
25 shall allow a person offering a DIAL-approved medication aide  
26 certification examination (examination) to submit proof that an  
27 individual successfully completed the examination. The bill  
28 prohibits DIAL from charging a fee for a person to submit  
29 or access proof that an individual successfully completed an  
30 examination.

31 Under current law, a medication aide includes certain  
32 persons responsible for administering medications or a  
33 class of medications at residential care facilities, nursing  
34 facilities, residential care facilities with three-bed to  
35 five-bed specialized licenses, intermediate care facilities for

1 the intellectually disabled, and intermediate care facilities  
2 for persons with mental illness. The bill requires DIAL  
3 to adopt rules that include specified provisions relating to  
4 qualifications of medication aides. The specified provisions  
5 relate to procedures for DIAL-approved medication aide courses,  
6 DIAL-approved medication aide challenge examinations, and  
7 medication aides certified in other states. The bill also  
8 requires DIAL to adopt any rules necessary to ensure consistency  
9 in all provisions relating to medication aide training and  
10 qualifications at such facilities.

11 The bill rescinds specified DIAL rules relating to  
12 DIAL-approved medication aide courses and DIAL-approved  
13 medication aide challenge examinations for medication aides at  
14 such care facilities.

15 The bill requires DIAL to engage in rulemaking to make any  
16 conforming changes to rules necessary to implement the bill.

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