

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 668

PRINTER'S NO. 1180

AMOUNT

See Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

May 2, 2023

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator J. Ward

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 668 amends the Health Care Facilities Act to permit Certified Nurse Aides to become Certified Medication Aides (CMA) in long-term care facilities, assisted living residences and personal care homes.

The bill outlines the following requirements to be qualified as a CMA:

- Be a nurse aide with a valid listing on the Pennsylvania Nurse Aide Registry;
- Have at least one year of consecutive experience working as a nurse aide in a single, long-term care nursing facility; and
- Have successfully completed the medication aide training program and met the requisite training and competence evaluation requirements.

The bill requires that an individual must meet the qualifications outlined and be certified by an instructor to practice as a certified medication aide. The bill lists permissible medication delivery by a CMA to a resident of a long-term care nursing facility as follows: oral, transdermal, ophthalmic, otic, rectal, vaginal, inhaled, enteral or topical medication.

Senate Bill 668 requires that the Department of Education (department) develop a medication aide training program for an individual to become a CMA, which may be offered by a long-term care nursing facility. The department shall include input from industry stakeholders on the development and implementation of the program.

The bill stipulates that a CMA shall be reauthorized to administer medications at least every two years or by the last day of the 24th month from the date of the prior authorization. The bill provides that authorization to practice as a CMA shall be valid in any long-term care nursing facility.

Senate Bill 668 provides that a long-term care nursing facility shall annually conduct a comprehensive clinical skills competency review of each certified medication aide employed by the long-term care nursing facility. The bill requires that nurse aides meeting the eligibility criteria be designated as CMAs on the statewide nurse aide registry.

This act shall take effect in 180 days.

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FISCAL IMPACT:

Senate Bill 668 is estimated to cost \$4.8 million in year one and \$500,000 annually thereafter. The Department of Health estimates that it will require \$4.8 million to upgrade and manage the nurse aide registry and to provide training in the first year of implementation. In addition, the department estimates a cost of \$500,000 annually to maintain the nurse aide registry and enroll and test certified medication aides.