



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 413**

*January Session, 2003*

House Bill No. 6678

*House of Representatives, April 16, 2003*

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. FELTMAN of the 6th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR  
PROFESSIONS REGULATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC  
HEALTH.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2003*) (a) As used in this  
2 section: (1) "Licensee" means a funeral director or embalmer licensed  
3 pursuant to chapter 385 of the general statutes; and (2) "department"  
4 means the Department of Public Health; and (3) "registration period"  
5 means the twelve-month period that commences on the date of  
6 renewal of the licensee's license, as provided in section 19a-88 of the  
7 general statutes, and is current and valid.

8 (b) Each licensee shall complete a minimum of six hours of  
9 continuing education during each registration period. The continuing  
10 education shall be in areas related to the licensee's practice, including,  
11 but not limited to, bereavement care, business management and  
12 administration, religious customs and traditions related to funerals,

13 cremation services, cemetery services, natural sciences, preneed  
14 services, restorative arts and embalming, federal and state laws  
15 governing funeral services, counseling, funeral service merchandising,  
16 sanitation and infection control, organ donation or hospice care. The  
17 continuing education shall consist of courses offered or approved by  
18 the Academy of Professional Funeral Service Practice, educational  
19 offerings sponsored by a hospital or other licensed health care  
20 institution or courses offered by a regionally accredited institution of  
21 higher education.

22 (c) Each licensee shall obtain a certificate of completion from the  
23 provider of the continuing education for all continuing education  
24 hours that are successfully completed and shall retain such certificate  
25 for a minimum of three years following the license renewal date for  
26 which the activity satisfies the continuing education requirement.  
27 Upon request by the department, the licensee shall submit the  
28 certificate to the department.

29 (d) A licensee who fails to comply with the provisions of this section  
30 shall be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to section 20-227 of the  
31 general statutes.

32 (e) The provisions of subsection (b) of this section shall not apply to  
33 a licensee (1) during the year immediately following the date on which  
34 the licensee's license is renewed for the first time; or (2) who has been  
35 continuously licensed since January 1, 1963. The department may, for a  
36 licensee who has a medical disability or illness, grant a waiver of the  
37 continuing education requirements for a specific period of time or may  
38 grant the licensee an extension of time in which to fulfill the  
39 requirements.

40 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2003*) (a) On and after October 1,  
41 2004, each alcohol and drug counselor licensed or certified pursuant to  
42 chapter 376b of the general statutes shall complete a minimum of  
43 fifteen hours of continuing education each registration period. For  
44 purposes of this section, registration period means the twelve-month  
45 period for which a license or certificate has been renewed in

46 accordance with section 19a-88 of the general statutes and is current  
47 and valid. The continuing education shall be in areas related to the  
48 individual's practice. Qualifying continuing education activities are  
49 educational offerings sponsored by a hospital or other licensed health  
50 care institutions or courses offered by a regionally accredited  
51 institution of higher education.

52 (b) Each licensee or certificate holder shall obtain a certificate of  
53 completion from the provider of continuing education activities for all  
54 continuing education hours successfully completed. Each licensee or  
55 certificate holder shall maintain such written documentation for a  
56 minimum of three years following the license or certificate renewal  
57 date for which the activity satisfies continuing education requirements.  
58 Certificates of completion shall be submitted by the licensee or  
59 certificate holder to the Department of Public Health upon the  
60 department's request. A licensee or certificate holder who fails to  
61 comply with the continuing education requirements may be subject to  
62 disciplinary action pursuant to subsection (r) of section 20-74s or  
63 section 19a-17 of the general statutes.

64 (c) The continuing education requirements shall be waived for  
65 licensees and certificate holders applying for licensure or certification  
66 renewal for the first time. The department may, for a licensee or  
67 certificate holder who has a medical disability or illness, grant a waiver  
68 of the continuing education requirements for a specific period of time  
69 or may grant the licensee or certificate holder an extension of time in  
70 which to fulfill the requirements.

71 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2003*) (a) Each person licensed in  
72 accordance with the provisions of sections 20-206a to 20-206e,  
73 inclusive, of the general statutes shall complete a minimum of forty-  
74 eight hours of continuing education every four years. Such four-year  
75 period shall commence on the first date of renewal of the licensee's  
76 license after October 1, 2003. The continuing education shall be in areas  
77 related to the licensee's practice, including, but not limited to, courses  
78 offered by providers that are approved by the National Certification

79 Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork.

80 (b) No more than twelve continuing education units shall be  
81 completed via the Internet or distance learning and no more than  
82 twenty-four continuing education units shall be obtained from  
83 providers that are not approved by the National Certification Board for  
84 Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork. For purposes of this section,  
85 "continuing education unit" means fifty to sixty minutes of  
86 participation in accredited continuing professional education.

87 (c) The Department of Public Health may require an applicant for  
88 license renewal to submit evidence of continuing education on forms  
89 that may be prescribed by the department. Each licensee shall maintain  
90 records, or certificates or other evidence of compliance with continuing  
91 education requirements for a period of six years. Failure on the part of  
92 the licensee to demonstrate that such continuing education  
93 requirements have been met shall be grounds for disciplinary action  
94 pursuant to section 20-206c of the general statutes.

95 Sec. 4. Section 19a-515 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
96 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2003*):

97 (a) Each nursing home administrator's license issued pursuant to the  
98 provisions of sections 19a-511 to 19a-520, inclusive, shall be renewed  
99 annually, in accordance with section 19a-88, except for cause, by the  
100 Department of Public Health, upon forms to be furnished by said  
101 department [upon proof of completion of such continuing education  
102 courses as may be required by regulations adopted by the department,  
103 in accordance with chapter 54,] and upon the payment to said  
104 department, by each applicant for license renewal, of the sum of fifty  
105 dollars. Each such fee shall be remitted to the Department of Public  
106 Health on or before the date prescribed under section 19a-88. Such  
107 renewals shall be granted [subject to the regulations of said  
108 department, unless it] unless said department finds the applicant has  
109 acted or failed to act in such a manner or under such circumstances as  
110 would constitute grounds for suspension or revocation of such license.

111 (b) On and after October 1, 2004, each licensee shall complete a  
 112 minimum of twenty hours of continuing education during each  
 113 registration period. The continuing education shall be in areas related  
 114 to the licensee's practice. Qualifying continuing education activities are  
 115 courses offered or approved by the Connecticut Association of  
 116 Healthcare Facilities, the Connecticut Association of Not-For-Profit  
 117 Providers, the Connecticut Chapter of the American College of Health  
 118 Care Administrators, any accredited college or university, or programs  
 119 presented or approved by the National Continuing Education Review  
 120 Service of the National Association of Boards of Examiners of Long  
 121 Term Care Administrators, or by federal or state departments or  
 122 agencies. For purposes of this section, "registration period" means the  
 123 twelve-month period for which a license has been renewed in  
 124 accordance with section 19a-88 and is current and valid.

125 (c) Each licensee shall obtain a certificate of completion from the  
 126 provider of the continuing education for all continuing education  
 127 hours that are successfully completed and shall retain such certificate  
 128 for a minimum of three years following the license renewal date for  
 129 which the activity satisfies the continuing education requirements.  
 130 Upon request by the department, the licensee shall submit the  
 131 certificate to the department. A licensee who fails to comply with the  
 132 continuing education requirements may be subject to disciplinary  
 133 action pursuant to section 19a-517.

134 (d) The continuing education requirements shall be waived for  
 135 licensees applying for licensure renewal for the first time. The  
 136 department may, for a licensee who has a medical disability or illness,  
 137 grant a waiver of the continuing education requirements for a specific  
 138 period of time or may grant the licensee an extension of time in which  
 139 to fulfill the requirements.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	October 1, 2003
Sec. 2	October 1, 2003
Sec. 3	October 1, 2003

Sec. 4	October 1, 2003
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**PH**      *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

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***OFA Fiscal Note***

***State Impact:*** None

***Municipal Impact:*** None

***Explanation***

The bill requires funeral directors and embalmers, alcohol and drug counselors, massage therapists and nursing home administrators to meet continuing education requirements as a condition of license renewal. The Department of Public Health will incur minimal costs, which can be accommodated within its anticipated budgetary resources, to pursue disciplinary actions and review requests for waivers.

**OLR Bill Analysis**

HB 6678

**AN ACT CONCERNING CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR PROFESSIONS REGULATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH****SUMMARY:**

This bill establishes continuing education requirements for funeral directors and embalmers, alcohol and drug counselors, nursing home administrators, and massage therapists. The bill defines acceptable continuing education courses and activities for these health professions, requires participants to document their continuing education and maintain records for a set period, and gives the Department of Public Health (DPH) authority to discipline individuals not complying with the requirements. DPH can grant continuing education waivers or extensions under certain circumstances.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2003

**FUNERAL DIRECTORS AND EMBALMERS**

The bill requires licensed funeral directors and embalmers to complete at least six hours of continuing education annually in order to renew their license. The continuing education must be in areas such as bereavement care, business management and administration, funeral-related religious customs and traditions, cremation services, cemetery services, natural sciences, restorative arts and embalming, federal and state laws, counseling, funeral service merchandising, sanitation and infection control, organ donation, and hospice care.

Continuing education must be in courses offered or approved by the Academy of Professional Funeral Service Practice, educational offerings sponsored by a hospital or other licensed health care institution, or courses offered by a regionally accredited higher education institution.

A licensee must get a certificate of completion from the continuing education provider for all successfully completed continuing

education hours. He must keep the certificate for at least three years following the license renewal date. The licensee must provide the DPH with the certificate if requested.

Failure to meet continuing education requirements under the bill can result in disciplinary action against the licensee, including the refusal, revocation, or suspension of a license.

Under the bill, the requirements do not apply to (1) a licensee in the year immediately after his license is renewed for the first time or (2) someone continuously licensed since January 1, 1963.

DPH can waive continuing education for a specific period or give the person an extension to meet the requirements because of a mental disability or illness.

### **ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELORS**

Beginning October 1, 2004, licensed or certified alcohol and drug counselors must complete a minimum 15 hours of continuing education annually under the bill. Continuing education must be in areas related to the individual's practice and include educational offerings sponsored by a hospital or other licensed health care institution or courses offered by regionally accredited higher education institutions.

The bill imposes the same certificate of completion, retention period, and submittal of information requirements described above for funeral directors and embalmers. DPH can take disciplinary action against a licensee or certificate holder for failure to meet the continuing education requirements, including suspending, revoking or refusing a license.

These requirements must be waived for licensees or certificate holders applying for their first renewal as well as for mental disability or illness as described above.

### **NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATORS**

Beginning October 1, 2004, nursing home administrator licensees must complete at least 20 hours of continuing education annually in areas related to their practice. Continuing education activities can include

courses offered or approved by the Connecticut Association of Healthcare Facilities, the Connecticut Association of Not-for-Profit Providers, the Connecticut Chapter of the American College of Health Care Administrators, accredited colleges, or programs presented or approved by the National Continuing Education Review Service of the National Association of Boards of Examiners of Long Term Care Administrators, or by state and federal agencies.

The bill imposes the same certificate of completion, retention period, and department submission requirements described above for the other professions. The same waiver provisions described earlier also apply.

A licensee failing to complete continuing education requirements can result in disciplinary action as described above.

### **MASSAGE THERAPISTS**

The bill requires massage therapists to complete a minimum 48 hours of continuing education every four years, beginning on the first renewal date after October 1, 2003. It must be in areas related to the individual's practice, including courses offered by providers approved by the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork. No more than 12 units can be completed via the Internet or distance learning and up to 24 units can be from providers not approved by the national board. The bill defines a continuing education unit as 50 to 60 minutes of participation in accredited continuing education.

Under the bill, DPH can require the licensee to submit evidence of continuing educating on forms the department may prescribe. The bill requires the licensee to keep records, certificates, or other evidence of compliance with the continuing education requirements for six years. Failure to do so can be grounds for DPH to take disciplinary action against the person, including license suspension or revocation.

### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Report  
Yea 12 Nay 9

