



General Assembly

January Session, 2005

**Raised Bill No. 6716**

LCO No. 3309

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Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:  
(PH)

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MEDICATION TECHNICIAN PILOT PROGRAM.**

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2005*) (a) For purposes of this  
2 section and section 2 of this act, (1) "medication technician" means an  
3 individual who (A) is currently listed in good standing on the state of  
4 Connecticut nurse's aide registry pursuant to section 20-102bb of the  
5 general statutes, and has maintained said registration for a minimum  
6 of two years, (B) has been recommended by the director of nurses at  
7 the facility at which the nurse's aide is employed, (C) has a high school  
8 degree or equivalent, (D) has taken and passed a literacy and reading  
9 comprehension screening process prescribed by the department, and  
10 (E) has successfully completed a medication technician training  
11 program approved by the department, (2) "facilities" means chronic  
12 and convalescent nursing homes and rest homes with nursing  
13 supervision, licensed pursuant to chapter 368v of the general statutes,  
14 (3) "department" means the Department of Public Health, and (4)  
15 "commissioner" means the Commissioner of Public Health.

16 (b) The commissioner shall establish a pilot program to implement

17 and evaluate the use of medication technicians in chronic and  
18 convalescent nursing homes and rest homes with nursing supervision,  
19 licensed pursuant to chapter 368v of the general statutes. The pilot  
20 program shall commence on or before April 1, 2006, and shall  
21 terminate not later than September 30, 2008.

22 (c) The commissioner shall designate no more than thirty facilities to  
23 conduct the pilot program. Facilities may apply for designation on  
24 forms prescribed by the department. In reviewing applications for  
25 participation, the commissioner shall consider factors including, but  
26 not necessarily limited to, facility size, geographic location, patient care  
27 history and staffing patterns in accordance with state and federal  
28 requirements.

29 (d) Designated facilities may permit medication technicians and  
30 individuals completing the clinical component of an-approved  
31 medication technician training program to administer oral and topical  
32 nonprescription drugs and legend drugs under the supervision of a  
33 registered nurse and in accordance with a standard written protocol  
34 developed by the department. Medication technicians and individuals  
35 enrolled in a medication technician training program shall only  
36 administer such medications in accordance with this subsection.

37 (e) The department shall approve medication technician training  
38 programs that include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following  
39 components: (1) Seventy-five hours of classroom instruction, which  
40 shall include a minimum of forty-five hours of pharmacology training;  
41 (2) supervised practical experience of eighty clinical hours; (3) a final  
42 written examination; and (4) a final practical examination administered  
43 by a registered nurse. No approved training program shall charge  
44 individuals for participation in the program without the prior written  
45 approval of the department.

46 (f) Medication technicians shall not be counted when calculating the  
47 minimum required staffing levels and staff-to-resident ratios required  
48 by the department.

49 (g) The facility participating in the pilot program shall arrange for  
50 registered nurses to supervise medication technicians and individuals  
51 completing the clinical component of a medication technician training  
52 program.

53 (h) No provision of chapter 378 of the general statutes shall be  
54 construed as prohibiting the administration of oral or topical  
55 medications by medication technicians to persons who reside in a  
56 facility, when such medication is administered under the direct  
57 supervision of a registered nurse, pursuant to the written order of a  
58 physician or a physician assistant licensed under chapter 370 of the  
59 general statutes, a dentist licensed under chapter 379 of the general  
60 statutes, or an advanced practice registered nurse licensed under  
61 chapter 378 of the general statutes; nor shall it be construed as  
62 prohibiting certified nurse's aides who are enrolled in an approved  
63 medication technician training program from performing such work as  
64 is incidental to their course of study.

65 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2005*) (a) All facilities designated  
66 to participate in the pilot program established pursuant to section 1 of  
67 this act shall agree to comply with the medication technician pilot  
68 program protocol as developed by the Department of Public Health  
69 pursuant to subsection (d) of section 1 of this act, and to submit  
70 periodic reports to the department, in accordance with this section and  
71 such protocol.

72 (b) The reports shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, (1)  
73 listing of individuals participating in a medication technician training  
74 program, (2) listing of individuals who have successfully completed a  
75 medication technician training program and are being utilized as  
76 medication technicians, (3) listing of all medication errors made by  
77 medication technicians or individuals enrolled in an approved  
78 medication technician training program and an analysis of such errors,  
79 (4) an analysis of time spent with patients by registered nurses before  
80 and after the pilot program began, and (5) such other information as

81 the commissioner may require.

82 (c) Facilities shall not allow a medication technician to administer  
83 medications if a pattern of medication errors is noted or if the  
84 medication technician is found to have diverted any patient  
85 medication.

86 (d) Approval to participate in the pilot program may be revoked at  
87 any time for failure to comply with the provisions of this section and  
88 section 1 of this act or the medication technician pilot program  
89 protocol.

90 (e) The department shall collect listings of medication errors from  
91 not less than ten chronic and convalescent nursing homes or rest  
92 homes with nursing supervision licensed pursuant to chapter 368v of  
93 the general statutes that are not participating in the medication  
94 technician pilot program.

95 (f) The commissioner shall report, in accordance with section 11-4a  
96 of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General  
97 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health not  
98 later than January 1, 2007, and annually thereafter until the pilot  
99 program terminates, concerning the results of such pilot program,  
100 including a comparison of the number of medication errors of facilities  
101 not participating in the program and the number of such errors at  
102 participating facilities. The report shall include, but not be limited to,  
103 recommendations regarding state certification and or registration of  
104 medication technicians.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2005</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To establish a medication technician pilot program in no more than thirty facilities with the state.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*