

**ASSEMBLY, No. 2933**

---

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**213th LEGISLATURE**

---

INTRODUCED JUNE 12, 2008

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman HERB CONAWAY, JR.**

**District 7 (Burlington and Camden)**

**Assemblywoman CONNIE WAGNER**

**District 38 (Bergen)**

**Assemblywoman JOAN M. VOSS**

**District 38 (Bergen)**

**Assemblyman ERIC MUNOZ**

**District 21 (Essex, Morris, Somerset and Union)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblymen Chiappone, Green, Vas, Assemblywomen Lampitt,  
Rodriguez, Assemblyman Giblin, Assemblywoman Angelini and  
Assemblyman Schaer**

**SYNOPSIS**

"Dietitian/Nutritionist Licensing Act."

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 9/16/2008)**

1 AN ACT providing for the licensing of dietitians/nutritionists,  
2 supplementing Title 45 of the Revised Statutes and amending  
3 P.L.1971, c.60, P.L.1974, c.46 and P.L.1978, c.73.

4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
6 of New Jersey:

7

8 1. (New section) This act shall be known and may be cited as  
9 the "Dietitian/Nutritionist Licensing Act."

10

11 2. (New section) The Legislature finds and declares that the  
12 public interest requires the regulation of the practice of  
13 dietetics/nutrition and the establishment of clear licensure standards  
14 for nutritionists and dietitians; and that the health and welfare of the  
15 residents of the State will be protected by identifying to the public  
16 those individuals who are qualified and legally authorized to  
17 practice dietetics/nutrition.

18

19 3. (New section) As used in this act:

20 "Board" means the State Board of Dietitians/Nutritionists  
21 established pursuant to section 4 of this act.

22 "Dietetics/nutrition" means the integration and application of  
23 scientific principles derived from the study of food, nutrition,  
24 biochemistry, physiology, food management and from behavioral  
25 and social sciences in achieving and maintaining health throughout  
26 the life span and in providing medical nutrition therapy for the  
27 treatment of disease. It includes, but is not limited to: nutrition  
28 assessment; nutrition diagnosis; nutrition intervention; monitoring  
29 and evaluation of nutrition care plans; nutrition support, including  
30 parenteral and enteral nutrition; nutritional counseling and  
31 education; and the development and administration of nutrition care  
32 standards and systems.

33 "Director" means the Director of the Division of Consumer  
34 Affairs in the Department of Law and Public Safety.

35 "Licensed dietitian/nutritionist" means a person who is licensed  
36 pursuant to the provisions of this act. The terms dietitian and  
37 nutritionist are used interchangeably in this act.

38 "Medical nutritional therapy" means nutritional diagnostic,  
39 therapeutic and counseling services for the purpose of disease  
40 management.

41

42 4. (New section) There is created within the Division of  
43 Consumer Affairs in the Department of Law and Public Safety the  
44 State Board of Dietitians/Nutritionists. The board shall consist of  
45 eight members who are residents of the State, two of whom shall be

**EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

**Matter underlined thus is new matter.**

1 public members and one of whom shall be a State executive  
2 department member appointed pursuant to the provisions of  
3 P.L.1971, c.60 (C.45:1-2.1 et seq.). Of the remaining five  
4 members, four shall be, except for the members first appointed,  
5 licensed dietitians/nutritionists under the provisions of this act and  
6 shall have been actively engaged in the practice of  
7 dietetics/nutrition in the State for at least five years immediately  
8 preceding their appointment, as follows: one shall be a  
9 dietitian/nutritionist whose primary practice is clinical nutrition;  
10 one shall be a dietitian/nutritionist whose primary practice is  
11 community or public health nutrition; one shall be a  
12 dietitian/nutritionist whose primary practice is management of  
13 clinical nutritional services or consulting in nutrition; and one shall  
14 be a dietitian/nutritionist teaching in a college or university with an  
15 accredited dietetic education program; and the remaining member  
16 shall be a physician licensed to practice medicine and surgery  
17 pursuant to chapter 9 of Title 45 of the Revised Statutes.

18 The Governor shall appoint the two public members and the  
19 State executive department member and shall appoint the remaining  
20 five members with the advice and consent of the Senate. Each  
21 member, other than the State executive department member, shall  
22 be appointed for a term of three years, except that of the  
23 dietitian/nutritionist members first appointed, two shall serve for a  
24 term of three years, one shall serve for a term of two years and one  
25 shall serve for a term of one year. Any vacancy in the membership  
26 of the board shall be filled for the unexpired term in the manner  
27 provided by the original appointment. No member of the board  
28 may serve more than two successive terms in addition to any  
29 unexpired term to which he has been appointed.

30

31 5. (New section) Members of the board shall be compensated  
32 and reimbursed for expenses and provided with office and meeting  
33 facilities pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1977, c.285 (C.45:1-2.5).

34

35 6. (New section) The board shall organize within 30 days after  
36 the appointment of its members and shall annually elect from  
37 among its members a chairperson and vice-chairperson, and a  
38 secretary who need not be a member of the board. The board shall  
39 meet twice a year and may hold additional meetings as necessary to  
40 discharge its duties. A majority of the board membership shall  
41 constitute a quorum.

42

43 7. (New section) The board shall:

- 44 a. Review the qualifications of applicants for licensure;
- 45 b. Adopt a code of ethics;
- 46 c. Insure the proper conduct and standards of examinations;
- 47 d. Issue and renew biennial licenses for dietitians/nutritionists
- 48 pursuant to this act;

- 1 e. Refuse to admit a person to an examination or refuse to issue  
2 or suspend, revoke or fail to renew the license of a  
3 dietitian/nutritionist pursuant to the provisions of P.L.1978, c.73  
4 (C.45:1-14 et seq.);
- 5 f. Maintain a record of every dietitian/nutritionist licensed in  
6 this State, their place of business, place of residence and the date  
7 and number of their license;
- 8 g. Prescribe or change the charges for examinations, licenses,  
9 renewals and other services it performs pursuant to P.L.1974, c.46  
10 (C.45:1-3.1 et seq.), and set the passing score on any examination it  
11 adopts as a licensure examination;
- 12 h. Establish rules and regulations with respect to continuing  
13 education requirements; and
- 14 i. Adopt and promulgate rules and regulations pursuant to the  
15 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et  
16 seq.) necessary to effectuate the purposes of this act.
- 17
- 18 8. (New section) No person shall practice dietetics/nutrition  
19 whether compensated or not unless the person holds a valid license  
20 to practice in this State, except nothing in this act shall be construed  
21 to:
- 22 a. Prohibit any person licensed to practice or certified to teach  
23 in this State under any other law from engaging in the practice or  
24 teaching for which he is licensed, regulated or certified;
- 25 b. Prohibit any student enrolled in a school or post-graduate  
26 course of dietetics/nutrition recognized by the board, from  
27 performing that which is necessary to the student's course of study;
- 28 c. Prohibit any person from practicing dietetics/nutrition within  
29 the scope of his official duties when employed by an agency, bureau  
30 or division of the federal government, serving in the Armed Forces  
31 or the United States Public Health Service or employed by the  
32 United States Department of Veterans Affairs or any State  
33 institution or facility;
- 34 d. Prohibit any person who does not hold himself out to be a  
35 dietitian/nutritionist from furnishing nutritional information as to  
36 the use of food, food materials or dietary supplements or from  
37 engaging in the explanation to persons as to the use of food or food  
38 products including dietary supplements;
- 39 e. Prohibit any person involved in presenting a general  
40 program of instruction for weight control provided the program has  
41 been approved in writing by a licensed dietitian/nutritionist, a  
42 dietitian/nutritionist licensed in another state that has licensure  
43 requirements substantially equivalent to those of this State, as  
44 determined by the board, a dietitian registered by the Commission  
45 on Dietetic Registration of the American Dietetic Association, or a  
46 licensed physician; or
- 47 f. Prohibit a dietetic technician from providing nutrition  
48 services under the supervision of a licensed dietitian/nutritionist.

- 1       9. (New section) To be eligible to be licensed as a  
2 dietitian/nutritionist an applicant shall fulfill the following  
3 requirements:
- 4       a. Be at least 18 years of age;
  - 5       b. Be of good moral character;
  - 6       c. (1) Provide evidence of current registration as a Registered  
7 Dietitian by the Commission on Dietetic Registration of the  
8 American Dietetic Association; or  
9       (2) (a) Have received a minimum of a baccalaureate degree from  
10 a United States regionally accredited college or university with a  
11 major course of study in nutritional sciences, human nutrition,  
12 foods and nutrition, dietetics, community nutrition, public health  
13 nutrition, nutrition education or an equivalent major course of  
14 study, as approved by the board, and have successfully completed  
15 minimum course requirements in food sciences, social and  
16 behavioral sciences, chemistry, biology, human nutrition and  
17 medical nutrition therapy, as determined by the board; or in the case  
18 of an applicant who has obtained his education outside of the  
19 United States, its possessions or the District of Columbia, shall have  
20 his academic degree validated by the board as being equivalent to a  
21 baccalaureate or master's degree conferred by a United States  
22 regionally accredited college or university; and  
23       (b) Have successfully completed a planned clinical program in  
24 an approved practice of dietetics/nutrition of not less than 900 hours  
25 under the supervision of: a dietitian/nutritionist licensed in this  
26 State or licensed, registered or certified in any other state having  
27 requirements for licensure, registration or certification substantially  
28 similar to licensure requirements in this State, as approved by the  
29 board; or a registered dietitian registered by the Commission on  
30 Dietetic Registration of the American Dietetic Association; and  
31       (c) Have passed an examination given by the Commission on  
32 Dietetic Registration of the American Dietetic Association to  
33 practice dietetics/nutrition; or  
34       (3) (a) Have received from a United States regionally accredited  
35 college or university a master's degree or doctorate in  
36 dietetics/nutritional sciences, human nutrition, foods and nutrition,  
37 dietetics, community nutrition, public health nutrition, nutrition  
38 education or an equivalent major course of study, as approved by  
39 the board, and have successfully completed minimum course  
40 requirements in food sciences, social and behavioral sciences,  
41 chemistry, biology, human nutrition and medical nutrition therapy,  
42 as determined by the board; or in the case of an applicant who has  
43 obtained his education outside of the United States, its possessions  
44 or the District of Columbia, shall have his academic degree  
45 validated by the board as being equivalent to a master's degree or  
46 doctorate conferred by a United States regionally accredited college  
47 or university; and

1 (b) Have a documented supervised experience in the United  
2 States in the practice of dietetics/nutrition of not less than 900 hours  
3 under the supervision of: a dietitian/nutritionist licensed in this  
4 State or licensed, registered or certified in any other state having  
5 requirements for licensure, registration or certification substantially  
6 similar to licensure requirements in this State, as approved by the  
7 board; a registered dietitian registered by the Commission on  
8 Dietetic Registration of the American Dietetic Association; or a  
9 licensed physician; and

10 (c) Have passed an examination given by the Commission on  
11 Dietetic Registration of the American Dietetic Association to  
12 practice dietetics/nutrition.

13 (d) The examination required pursuant to subparagraph (c) of  
14 paragraph (2) and of subparagraph (c) of paragraph (3) of  
15 subsection c. of this section shall be held by the board at least twice  
16 a year and may be administered by a national testing service, as  
17 determined by the board.

18

19 10. (New section) The board shall issue a license to any  
20 applicant who, in the opinion of the board, has satisfactorily met all  
21 the requirements of this act.

22 Except in the case of a temporary license issued pursuant to  
23 section 14 of this act, all licenses shall be issued for a two-year  
24 period upon the payment of the licensure fee prescribed by the  
25 board, and shall be renewed upon filing of a renewal application,  
26 the payment of a licensure fee and presentation of satisfactory  
27 evidence that the renewal applicant has successfully completed the  
28 continuing education requirements prescribed by the board by  
29 regulation.

30

31 11. (New section) Upon payment to the board of a fee and the  
32 submission of a written application on forms provided by it, the  
33 board shall license without examination a nutritionist or dietitian  
34 who is licensed, registered or certified by another state or  
35 possession of the United States or the District of Columbia which  
36 has standards substantially equivalent to those of this State.

37

38 12. (New section) For a period of one year after the effective  
39 date of this act, any person who is practicing or residing in this  
40 State on the effective date of this act may qualify as a licensed  
41 dietitian/nutritionist upon application for licensure and payment of  
42 the appropriate fee, provided the applicant furnishes evidence  
43 satisfactory to the board that he has received a baccalaureate or  
44 higher academic degree from a United States regionally accredited  
45 college or university with a minimum of 30 credit hours or a major  
46 concentration of study in human nutrition, foods and nutrition, food  
47 systems management, nutritional science, nutritional education or  
48 related courses approved by the board; and has been employed at

1 least half-time as a dietitian/nutritionist for three of the last five  
2 years immediately preceding the effective date of this act.

3

4 13. (New section) No person, business entity or its employees,  
5 agents or representatives shall use the titles, "dietitian/nutritionist,"  
6 "nutritionist," "dietitian," "dietician," "nutrition counselor,"  
7 "nutrition consultant," "nutrition specialist," "LDN," "LD," "LN,"  
8 or any other title, designation, words, letters, abbreviations or  
9 insignia indicating the practice of dietetics/nutrition unless licensed  
10 to practice dietetics/nutrition under the provisions of this act.

11

12 14. (New section) a. Upon payment to the board of a fee and  
13 the submission of a written application on forms provided by it, the  
14 board shall issue a temporary license to a person who has applied  
15 for licensure pursuant to this act and who, in the judgment of the  
16 board, is eligible for examination. A temporary license shall be  
17 available to an applicant with his initial application for examination  
18 and he may practice only under the direct supervision of a licensed  
19 dietitian/nutritionist. A temporary license shall expire automatically  
20 upon failure of the licensure examination but may be renewed until  
21 the date of the next examination at which time it shall automatically  
22 expire and be surrendered to the board.

23 b. Upon payment to the board of a fee and the submission of a  
24 written application on forms provided by it, the board may issue  
25 without examination a temporary license to practice  
26 dietetics/nutrition in this State to a person who provides evidence  
27 that he is in the State on a temporary basis to assist in a medical  
28 emergency or engage in a special project or teaching assignment  
29 relating to dietetics/nutrition. A temporary license shall expire one  
30 year from its date of issuance, but it may be renewed by the board  
31 for an additional one year period. This temporary license shall be  
32 surrendered to the board upon its expiration.

33

34 15. Section 1 of P.L.1971, c.60 (C.45:1-2.1) is amended to read  
35 as follows:

36 1. The provisions of this act shall apply to the following boards  
37 and commissions: the New Jersey State Board of Accountancy, the  
38 New Jersey State Board of Architects, the New Jersey State Board  
39 of Cosmetology and Hairstyling, the Board of Examiners of  
40 Electrical Contractors, the New Jersey State Board of Dentistry, the  
41 State Board of Mortuary Science of New Jersey, the State Board of  
42 Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, the State Board of  
43 Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners, the State Board of  
44 Medical Examiners, the New Jersey Board of Nursing, the New  
45 Jersey State Board of Optometrists, the State Board of Examiners of  
46 Ophthalmic Dispensers and Ophthalmic Technicians, the Board of  
47 Pharmacy, the State Board of Professional Planners, the State Board  
48 of Psychological Examiners, the State Board of Examiners of

1 Master Plumbers, the New Jersey Real Estate Commission, the  
2 State Board of Court Reporting, the State Board of Veterinary  
3 Medical Examiners, the Radiologic Technology Board of  
4 Examiners, the Acupuncture Examining Board, the State Board of  
5 Chiropractic Examiners, the State Board of Respiratory Care, the  
6 State Real Estate Appraiser Board, the State Board of Social Work  
7 Examiners, the State Board of Examiners of Heating, Ventilating,  
8 Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Contractors, the State Board of  
9 Physical Therapy Examiners, the Orthotics and Prosthetics Board of  
10 Examiners, the New Jersey Cemetery Board, the State Board of  
11 Polysomnography, the New Jersey Board of Massage and  
12 Bodywork Therapy, the State Board of Dietitians/Nutritionists and  
13 any other entity hereafter created under Title 45 to license or  
14 otherwise regulate a profession or occupation.  
15 (cf: P.L.2007, c.337, s.10)

16  
17 16. Section 1 of P.L.1974, c.46 (C.45:1-3.1) is amended to read  
18 as follows:

19 1. The provisions of this act shall apply to the following boards  
20 and commissions: the New Jersey State Board of Accountancy, the  
21 New Jersey State Board of Architects, the New Jersey State Board  
22 of Cosmetology and Hairstyling, the Board of Examiners of  
23 Electrical Contractors, the New Jersey State Board of Dentistry, the  
24 State Board of Mortuary Science of New Jersey, the State Board of  
25 Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, the State Board of  
26 Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners, the State Board of  
27 Medical Examiners, the New Jersey Board of Nursing, the New  
28 Jersey State Board of Optometrists, the State Board of Examiners of  
29 Ophthalmic Dispensers and Ophthalmic Technicians, the Board of  
30 Pharmacy, the State Board of Professional Planners, the State Board  
31 of Psychological Examiners, the State Board of Examiners of  
32 Master Plumbers, the State Board of Court Reporting, the State  
33 Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, the Radiologic  
34 Technology Board of Examiners, the Acupuncture Examining  
35 Board, the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners, the State Board  
36 of Respiratory Care, the State Real Estate Appraiser Board, the New  
37 Jersey Cemetery Board, the State Board of Social Work Examiners,  
38 the State Board of Examiners of Heating, Ventilating, Air  
39 Conditioning and Refrigeration Contractors, the State Board of  
40 Physical Therapy Examiners, the State Board of Polysomnography,  
41 the Orthotics and Prosthetics Board of Examiners, the New Jersey  
42 Board of Massage and Bodywork Therapy, the State Board of  
43 Dietitians/Nutritionists and any other entity hereafter created under  
44 Title 45 to license or otherwise regulate a profession or occupation.  
45 (cf: P.L.2007, c.337, s.11)

46  
47 17. Section 2 of P.L.1978, c.73 (C.45:1-15) is amended to read  
48 as follows:

1       2. The provisions of this act shall apply to the following boards  
2 and all professions or occupations regulated by, through or with the  
3 advice of those boards: the New Jersey State Board of  
4 Accountancy, the New Jersey State Board of Architects, the New  
5 Jersey State Board of Cosmetology and Hairstyling, the Board of  
6 Examiners of Electrical Contractors, the New Jersey State Board of  
7 Dentistry, the State Board of Mortuary Science of New Jersey, the  
8 State Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, the  
9 State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners, the State  
10 Board of Medical Examiners, the New Jersey Board of Nursing, the  
11 New Jersey State Board of Optometrists, the State Board of  
12 Examiners of Ophthalmic Dispensers and Ophthalmic Technicians,  
13 the Board of Pharmacy, the State Board of Professional Planners,  
14 the State Board of Psychological Examiners, the State Board of  
15 Examiners of Master Plumbers, the State Board of Court Reporting,  
16 the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, the State Board  
17 of Chiropractic Examiners, the State Board of Respiratory Care, the  
18 State Real Estate Appraiser Board, the State Board of Social Work  
19 Examiners, the State Board of Examiners of Heating, Ventilating,  
20 Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Contractors, the State Board of  
21 Physical Therapy Examiners, the State Board of Polysomnography,  
22 the Professional Counselor Examiners Committee, the New Jersey  
23 Cemetery Board, the Orthotics and Prosthetics Board of Examiners,  
24 the Occupational Therapy Advisory Council, the Electrologists  
25 Advisory Committee, the Acupuncture Advisory Committee, the  
26 Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee, the Athletic Training  
27 Advisory Committee, the Certified Psychoanalysts Advisory  
28 Committee, the Fire Alarm, Burglar Alarm, and Locksmith  
29 Advisory Committee, the Home Inspection Advisory Committee,  
30 the Interior Design Examination and Evaluation Committee, the  
31 Hearing Aid Dispensers Examining Committee, the Landscape  
32 Architect Examination and Evaluation Committee, the Perfusionists  
33 Advisory Committee, the Physician Assistant Advisory Committee,  
34 the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Advisory  
35 Committee, the New Jersey Board of Massage and Bodywork  
36 Therapy, the State Board of Dietitians/Nutritionists and any other  
37 entity hereafter created under Title 45 to license or otherwise  
38 regulate a profession or occupation.

39 (cf: P.L.2007, c.337, s.12)

40

41       18. The State Board of Dietitians/Nutritionists shall adopt rules  
42 and regulations pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure Act,”  
43 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), necessary to effectuate the  
44 purposes of this act.

45

46       19. This act shall take effect immediately, except that sections 8  
47 and 13 of this act shall take effect on the 360th day following the  
48 effective date.

STATEMENT

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48

This bill provides for the licensure of dietitians/nutritionists and establishes an eight-member State Board of Dietitians/Nutritionists in the Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Law and Public Safety to oversee their licensure. The board is to consist of four licensed dietitians/nutritionists, a physician, two public members and a State executive department member.

To be eligible for licensure as a dietitian/nutritionist an applicant must be at least 18 years old, be of good moral character and fulfill the following requirements:

Provide evidence of current registration as a Registered Dietitian by the Commission on Dietetic Registration of the American Dietetic Association; or

Have received a minimum of a baccalaureate degree from a United States regionally accredited college or university with a major course of study in nutritional sciences, human nutrition, foods and nutrition, dietetics, community nutrition, public health nutrition, nutrition education or an equivalent major course of study, as approved by the board, and have successfully completed minimum course requirements in food sciences, social and behavioral sciences, chemistry, biology, human nutrition and medical nutrition therapy, as determined by the board; or in the case of an applicant who has obtained his education outside of the United States, its possessions or the District of Columbia, shall have his academic degree validated by the board as being equivalent to a baccalaureate or master's degree conferred by a United States regionally accredited college or university; and

Have successfully completed a planned clinical program in an approved practice of dietetics/nutrition of not less than 900 hours under the supervision of: a dietitian/nutritionist licensed in this State or licensed, registered or certified in any other state having requirements for licensure, registration or certification substantially similar to licensure requirements in this State, as approved by the board; or a registered dietitian registered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration of the American Dietetic Association; and

Have passed an examination given by the Commission on Dietetic Registration of the American Dietetic Association to practice dietetics/nutrition; or

Have received from a United States regionally accredited college or university a master's degree or doctorate in nutritional sciences, human nutrition, foods and nutrition, dietetics, community nutrition, public health nutrition, nutrition education or an equivalent major course of study, as approved by the board, and have successfully completed minimum course requirements in food sciences, social and behavioral sciences, chemistry, biology, human nutrition and medical nutrition therapy, as determined by the board; or in the case of an applicant who has obtained his education

1 outside of the United States, its possessions or the District of  
2 Columbia, shall have his academic degree validated by the board as  
3 being equivalent to a master's degree or doctorate conferred by a  
4 United States regionally accredited college or university; and

5 Have a documented supervised experience in the United States in  
6 the practice of dietetics/nutrition of not less than 900 hours under  
7 the supervision of: a dietitian/nutritionist licensed in this State or  
8 licensed, registered or certified in any other state having  
9 requirements for licensure, registration or certification substantially  
10 similar to licensure requirements in this State, as approved by the  
11 board; a registered dietitian registered by the Commission on  
12 Dietetic Registration of the American Dietetic Association; or a  
13 licensed physician; and

14 Have passed an examination given by the Commission on  
15 Dietetic Registration of the American Dietetic Association to  
16 practice dietetics/nutrition.

17 The bill provides that no person may practice dietetics/nutrition  
18 in this State unless that person holds a valid license. Those exempt  
19 from this prohibition are: licensed professionals and certified  
20 teachers in this State who are practicing or teaching within the  
21 scope of their license or certificate; students enrolled in schools  
22 with courses of dietetics/nutrition recognized by the board who are  
23 performing that which is necessary to their course of study; federal  
24 government employees, persons serving in the Armed Forces or the  
25 United States Public Health Service or employed by the United  
26 States Department of Veterans Affairs or any State institution or  
27 facility who are practicing dietetics/nutrition within the scope of  
28 their official duties; persons who do not hold themselves out to be  
29 dietitians/nutritionists while furnishing general nutritional  
30 information as to the use of food or food materials including dietary  
31 supplements; persons involved in presenting a general program of  
32 instruction for weight control provided the program has been  
33 approved in writing by a licensed dietitian/nutritionist, a  
34 dietitian/nutritionist licensed in another state that has licensure  
35 requirements substantially equivalent to those of this State, as  
36 determined by the board, a dietitian registered by the Commission  
37 on Dietetic Registration, or a licensed physician; or a dietetic  
38 technician who is providing nutrition services under the supervision  
39 of a licensed dietitian/nutritionist.

40 For a period of one year after the effective date of the bill, a  
41 person who is practicing or residing in the State on the effective  
42 date of the bill may qualify as a licensed dietitian/nutritionist if that  
43 person has a baccalaureate or higher academic degree from a United  
44 States regionally accredited college or university with a minimum  
45 of 30 credit hours or a major concentration of study in human  
46 nutrition, foods and nutrition, food systems management, nutritional  
47 science, nutritional education or related courses approved by the  
48 board; and has been employed at least half-time as a dietitian/

1 nutritionist for three of the last five years. The bill also provides  
2 for the licensure by the board by endorsement to nutritionists or  
3 dietitians who have been licensed, registered or certified in another  
4 state with standards substantially equivalent to those of this State.

5 As defined in the bill, "dietetics/nutrition" is the integration and  
6 application of scientific principles derived from the study of food,  
7 nutrition, biochemistry, physiology, food management and from  
8 behavioral and social sciences in achieving and maintaining health  
9 throughout the life span and in providing medical nutrition therapy  
10 for the treatment of disease. It includes, but is not limited to:  
11 nutrition assessment; nutrition diagnosis; nutrition intervention;  
12 monitoring and evaluation of nutrition care plans; nutrition support,  
13 including parenteral and enteral nutrition; nutritional counseling  
14 and education; and the development and administration of nutrition  
15 care standards and systems.

16 Dietitians/nutritionists play an important role in maintaining  
17 health throughout the human lifespan as well as in treating illnesses  
18 such as diabetes, heart disease, cancer, acute injury and other  
19 medical conditions. They also improve the quality of life for  
20 infants, children, pregnant females, elderly persons, poor and  
21 overweight persons, chronically and terminally ill persons, and  
22 fitness enthusiasts.

23 Consumers and patients are becoming increasingly concerned  
24 about their diets and nutrition as well as the accuracy of the  
25 information and services being offered to the public. Currently,  
26 there are no clear means for the public to identify the qualifications  
27 of persons providing dietetic/nutrition services and nutritional care.  
28 The purpose of this bill is to protect the public health, safety and  
29 welfare by establishing standards of qualification, training and  
30 experience for individuals who practice as dietitians/nutritionists in  
31 New Jersey.