

Support H.B. 4960

Establishes Pilot Program for Medication Aides in Assisted Living Establishments

House Sponsor: Rep. Careen Gordon (D-Coal City)

House Bill 4960 directs the State Board of Nursing to create a Medication Aide Pilot Program, to be completed by December 1, 2010, for no more than 10 assisted living establishments in Illinois.

The key components of the bill include:

- Determining the impact on resident health and safety of allowing Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs), acting as pilot study medication aides, to administer medications under educational requirements and conditions prescribed by the Board.
- Prohibits assisted living establishments participating in the pilot program from replacing existing registered nurse and licensed practical nurse positions with certified nursing assistants or pilot study medication aides.
- The Board of Nursing is required to report the results of the pilot to the Governor and the General Assembly.

The benefits of a Medication Aide Pilot Program in Assisted Living include:

- Assisted Living residents are less medically complex than nursing home residents.
- Given many nursing homes now provide rehabilitative services where the residents stay only as long as the rehab program requires, assisted living communities have a more stable resident population in terms of move-in and move-outs.
- The addition of medication aides provides the nurse more time to spend one on one with the resident. This in turn will allow for a more thorough assessment and the development of service plans that help restore and preserve independence rather than treating symptoms.
- Additional career growth opportunities for CNAs
- **Ultimately the resident will be better served.**

Medication aides have been utilized successfully in 28 other states. Illinois now has the opportunity to build on the experiences of other states.

Vote Yes on HB4960!

For more information or questions regarding this legislation, please contact Kirk Riva at 217.789.1677 or kriva@lsni.org . You can also visit www.medaidesillinois.org .