



98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2013 and 2014

HB5412

by Rep. Robyn Gabel

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

20 ILCS 2310/2310-685 new

Amends the Department of Public Health Powers and Duties Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois. Provides that the scope of practice for community health workers is a set of core competencies that include skills and areas of knowledge that are essential to bringing about expanded health in diverse communities and to reduce health disparities. Sets forth core competencies for effective community health workers as members of health teams. Provides that within 90 days after the effective date of the amendatory Act, the Director of Public Health shall establish and appoint the Illinois Community Health Worker Advisory Board. Provides that the Board shall propose to the Department leadership the training and certification processes for community health workers and that the Board shall also advise the Department, the Governor, and the General Assembly on all matters that impact the effective work of community health workers. Sets forth provisions concerning Board membership. Provides that the Board shall develop a plan for the certification process of community health workers.

LRB098 19365 RPM 54518 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning public health.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Department of Public Health Powers and
5 Duties Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois is
6 amended by adding Section 2310-685 as follows:

7 (20 ILCS 2310/2310-685 new)

8 Sec. 2310-685. Integrated team-based health care;
9 community health workers; creation of board.

10 (a) In this Section:

11 "Community health worker" or "CHW" means a frontline public
12 health worker who is a trusted member or has an unusually close
13 understanding of the community served. This trusting
14 relationship enables the CHW to serve as a liaison, link, and
15 intermediary between health and social services and the
16 community to facilitate access to services and improve the
17 quality and cultural competence of service delivery. A CHW also
18 builds individual and community capacity by increasing health
19 knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities,
20 including outreach, community education, informal counseling,
21 social support, and advocacy.

22 "Community health worker practice" includes education,
23 training, and experience on the core competencies in order to

1 effectively provide services to the communities and
2 populations served through a variety of distinct roles that are
3 indicative of community health worker best practices.

4 (b) The scope of practice for community health workers is a
5 set of core competencies that include skills and areas of
6 knowledge that are essential to bringing about expanded health
7 in diverse communities and to reduce health disparities. As
8 members of health teams, core competencies for effective
9 community health workers include, but are not limited to:

10 (1) outreach methods and strategies;

11 (2) client and community assessment;

12 (3) effective community-based and participatory
13 methods;

14 (4) culturally-based communication and care;

15 (5) health education for behavior change;

16 (6) support, advocacy, and health system navigation
17 for clients;

18 (7) application of public health concepts and
19 approaches;

20 (8) individual and community capacity building and
21 mobilization; and

22 (9) writing and technical communication skills.

23 (c) Nothing in this Section shall permit a certified
24 community health worker to engage in or perform any act or
25 service for which a license issued by a professional licensing
26 board is required.

1 (d) Within 90 days after the effective date of this
2 amendatory Act of the 98th General Assembly, the Director shall
3 establish and appoint the Illinois Community Health Worker
4 Advisory Board (Board). The Board shall propose to the
5 Department leadership the training and certification processes
6 for community health workers. The Board shall also advise the
7 Department, the Governor, and the General Assembly on all
8 matters that impact the effective work of community health
9 workers.

10 (e) The Board shall be comprised of 11 members. At least 6
11 members of the Board shall be community health workers, one of
12 whom shall have served as a health exchange navigator. One
13 member shall be a representative of the community colleges,
14 universities, and educational institutions that may provide
15 CHW training. The remaining 4 positions shall be filled with
16 representation from the following categories, with no fewer
17 than 3 categories being represented:

18 (1) health care and public health professionals, who
19 are not community health workers, with community health and
20 supervision experience, such as nurses and physicians; and

21 (2) training or curriculum specialists; and

22 (3) social service or social science professionals,
23 such as social workers, counselors, anthropologists, and
24 community psychologists; and

25 (4) agency administrators and CHW employer
26 representatives or program administrators, excluding upper

1 management; and

2 (5) health policy advisors, with experience in health
3 care workforce policy.

4 (f) The Board shall also include ex-officio members from
5 the following State agencies:

6 (1) the Illinois Community College Board;

7 (2) the Department on Aging;

8 (3) the Department of Children and Family Services;

9 (4) the Department of Commerce and Economic
10 Opportunity;

11 (5) the Department of Employment Security;

12 (6) the Department of Financial and Professional
13 Regulation;

14 (7) the Department of Healthcare and Family Services;

15 (8) the Department of Human Services; and

16 (9) the Department of Public Health.

17 The Director shall select a chair from the 11 members of
18 the Board. The Board shall consult with additional experts as
19 needed.

20 (g) The Board shall develop a plan for the certification
21 process of community health workers that shall include:

22 (1) developing and reviewing curriculum and training
23 programs as models for designing an Illinois certification
24 process, including the consideration of a multi-tiered
25 educational or training system, which may include
26 certification, non-certification, and degree-based levels,

1 and the requirements for experience-based certification;

2 (2) developing certification and renewal processes and
3 a system of approval and accreditation for curriculum and
4 training;

5 (3) ensuring that the content, methodology,
6 development, and delivery of programs is appropriate and
7 reflective of relevant CHW scope of practice; and

8 (4) investigating reimbursement options and pathways
9 through which secure funding for community health workers
10 may be obtained.