WEST virginia legislature

2021 regular session

Introduced

House Bill 2093

By Delegates Graves, Hott, Sypolt, Mandt, J. Pack, Toney, Longanacre, Jennings, Smith, Wamsley, and Clark

[Introduced February 10, 2021; Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and Homeland Security then Health and Human Resources]

A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §16-5E-3a; and to amend and reenact §16-49-1 of said code, all relating to providing exemption to medical foster homes approved and annually reviewed by the United States Department of Veteran Affairs from requirements for unlicensed health care homes; providing for annual reporting regarding operation of program; and excluding medical foster homes from the definition of covered provider for purposes of WV CARES Act.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

**ARTICLE 5E. REGISTRATION AND INSPECTION OF SERVICE PROVIDERS IN LEGALLY UNLICENSED HEALTH CARE HOMES.**

§16-5E-3a. Exemption for the United States Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Foster Homes; reporting.

(a) The provisions of this article do not apply to any home or facility approved and annually reviewed by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as a Medical Foster Home, pursuant to 38 CFR §17.73, in which care is provided exclusively to three or fewer veterans.

(b) The West Virginia Department of Veterans Affairs shall provide an annual report to the Governor and Legislature by December 1 of each year, beginning on December 1, 2021, outlining the scope and effectiveness of the Medical Foster Home Program for veterans in West Virginia.

ARTICLE 49. West Virginia Clearance for Access: Registry and Employment Screening Act.

§16-49-1. Definitions.

As used in this article:

(1) “Applicant” means an individual who is being considered for employment or engagement with a covered provider or covered contractor.

(2) “Background check” means a prescreening of registries specified by the secretary by rule and a fingerprint-based search of state and federal criminal history record information.

(3) “Covered contractor” means an individual or entity, including their employees and subcontractors, that contracts with a covered provider to perform services that include any direct access services.

(4) “Covered provider” means the following facilities or providers:

(i) A skilled nursing facility;

(ii) A nursing facility;

(iii) A home health agency;

(iv) A provider of hospice care;

(v) A long-term care hospital;

(vi) A provider of personal care services;

(vii) A provider of adult day care;

(viii) A residential care provider that arranges for, or directly provides, long-term care services, including an assisted living facility;

(ix) An intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual disabilities; ~~and~~

(x) Any other facility or provider required to participate in the West Virginia Clearance for Access: Registry and Employment Screening program as determined by the secretary by legislative rule; and

(xi) Excludes medical foster homes approved and annually reviewed by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs pursuant to 38 CFR §17.73.

(5) “Department” means the Department of Health and Human Resources.

(6) “Direct access” means physical contact with a resident, member, beneficiary or client of a covered provider, or access to their property, personally identifiable information, protected health information or financial information.

(7) “Direct access personnel” means an individual who has direct access by virtue of ownership, employment, engagement or agreement with a covered provider or covered contractor. Direct access personnel does not include volunteers or students performing irregular or supervised functions or contractors performing repairs, deliveries, installations or similar services for the covered provider. The secretary shall determine by legislative rule whether the position in question involves direct access.

(8) “Disqualifying offense” means:

(A) A conviction of any crime described in 42 U.S.C. §1320a-7(a); or

(B) A conviction of any other crime specified by the secretary in rule, which shall include crimes against care-dependent or vulnerable individuals, crimes of violence, sexual offenses and financial crimes.

(9) “Negative finding” means a finding in the prescreening that excludes an applicant from direct access personnel positions.

(10) “Notice of ineligibility” means a notice pursuant to section three of this article that the secretary’s review of the applicant’s criminal history record information reveals a disqualifying offense.

(11) “Prescreening” means a mandatory search of databases and registries specified by the secretary in legislative rule for exclusions and licensure status prior to the submission of fingerprints for a criminal history record information check.

(12) “Rap back” means the notification to the department when an individual who has undergone a fingerprint-based, state or federal criminal history record information check has a subsequent state or federal criminal history event.

(13) “Secretary” means the Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, or his or her designee.

(14) “State Police” means the West Virginia State Police Criminal Identification Bureau.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to allow West Virginia veterans to utilize the services of medical foster homes approved by the US Department of Veteran~~’~~s Affairs, and to exempt medical foster home caregivers from duplicative background examination requirements of the WV CARES program.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law, and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.