

SUBJECT:	Revising certain provisions on the licensing and regulation of dietitians
COMMITTEE:	Licensing & Administrative Procedures — favorable, without amendment
VOTE:	6 ayes — K. King, Walle, Goldman, Harless, Hernandez, S. Thompson  2 nays — Schaefer, Shaheen  3 absent — Herrero, T. King, Patterson
SENATE VOTE:	On final passage (May 2) — 23 - 8
WITNESSES:	None ( <i>considered in a formal meeting on May 16</i> )
BACKGROUND:	Some have suggested that current state law on dietitian certification should be revised to align with national standards to reduce confusion concerning certification requirements.
DIGEST:	<p>SB 2016 would replace current statutory provisions regarding the qualifications for a dietitian license. The bill would require an applicant for a dietitian license to provide satisfactory evidence to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation that the applicant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• was a registered dietitian or registered dietitian nutritionist;</li><li>• met relevant education and experience requirements, including possession of at least a master's degree conferred by an accredited and recognized college or university and completion of an accredited supervised experience or practice program in dietetics practice;</li><li>• passed an examination given by an applicable certifying entity;</li><li>• was in compliance with all professional, ethical, and disciplinary standards established by the certifying entity; and</li><li>• was not subject to any disciplinary action by the certifying entity.</li></ul>

The bill would repeal certain provisions regarding dietitians, including relevant definitions, the dietitian registry, licenses, examinations, and sanctions.

SB 2016 would apply only to an application for a dietitian license submitted on or after January 1, 2024. A person who held a dietitian license on the bill's effective date could continue to renew that license without complying with the bill's provisions. A person who was credentialed as a registered dietitian or registered dietitian nutritionist before January 1, 2024, and continued to hold that credential could apply for a dietitian license and would be exempt from complying with the bill's provisions.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023.