



2026 South Dakota Legislature

House Bill 1138

HOUSE ENGROSSED

Introduced by: Representative Heermann

- 1 **An Act to require the licensure of non-medical home care agencies, and to provide**
2 **a penalty therefor.**

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

4 **Section 1. That a NEW SECTION be added to a NEW CHAPTER in title 34:**

5 Terms defined in this chapter mean:

- 6 (1) "Client," an individual, at least eighteen years of age, who receives non-medical
7 home care services from a home care aide;
8 (2) "Department," the Department of Health;
9 (3) "Home care aide," an individual employed by or under contract with a non-medical
10 home care agency to provide non-medical home care services for wages in return
11 for services rendered;
12 (4) "Non-medical home care agency," a person that, for compensation and as a regular
13 part of a business, provides, or employs or contracts with home care aides to
14 provide, non-medical home care services intended to enable a client to remain
15 safely in the client's personal residence; and
16 (5) "Non-medical home care services," two or more of the following, when provided by
17 a home care aide to a client:
18 (a) Assistance with bathing, dressing, eating, personal grooming, or toileting;
19 (b) Assistance with the self-administration of medications;
20 (c) Companionship;
21 (d) Housekeeping or assistance with household chores;
22 (e) Meal preparation; or
23 (f) Other routine activities of daily living that are not required to be performed
24 by a licensed health care professional.

25 **Section 2. That a NEW SECTION be added to a NEW CHAPTER in title 34:**

A non-medical home care agency may not operate in this state unless the agency is licensed by the department.

Any person who operates, claims to operate, or advertises as operating, a non-medical home care agency without a license is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

Section 3. That a NEW SECTION be added to a NEW CHAPTER in title 34:

To obtain or renew a license to operate a non-medical home care agency, a person shall submit to the department:

(1) An application, developed by the department;

(2) A fee, established by the department in rules promulgated in accordance with chapter 1-26, but not exceeding one hundred dollars;

(3) The name and contact information of the agency's owner;

(4) An attestation that:

(a) Any home care aides employed by or under contract with the agency have completed training in accordance with section 4 of this Act; and

(b) The owner of the agency and any home care aides employed by or under contract with the agency have submitted to and passed a criminal history background check, in accordance with section 5 of this Act; and

(5) Proof of professional liability insurance, as required by section 7 of this Act.

A license issued in accordance with this section is valid for one year from the date of issuance. A licensee may apply for renewal beginning thirty days before the expiration of the license. If the renewal application is submitted within thirty days after the expiration of the license, the department must assess a two-hundred-dollar late fee and may reinstate the expired license.

Any fee submitted under this section is nonrefundable.

Section 4. That a NEW SECTION be added to a NEW CHAPTER in title 34:

A non-medical home care agency must ensure that any home care aide employed by or under contract with the agency has completed at least eight hours of training on the provision of non-medical home care services during the first six months of employment or during the first six months of a contract for services. The training must comprise of:

(1) At least two hours on basic care for individuals living with Alzheimer's and dementia; and

(2) At least six hours on:

(a) The maintenance of a clean and safe environment;

(b) Safe techniques for assisting with bathing, dressing, personal grooming, and toileting;

(c) Basic nutrition, meal preparation, food safety, and eating assistance;

(d) Client confidentiality, privacy, and documentation and record requirements; and

(e) Elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation reporting and prevention.

The agency shall maintain, for each home care aide, documentation of the completion of the training, and shall provide the documentation to the department, upon request.

A home care aide who is licensed, certified, or registered as a health care professional, in accordance with title 36, satisfies the training requirements of this section if the professional provides documentation to the agency demonstrating training in the topics set forth above, as part of the process for obtaining or renewing licensure, certification, or registration.

Section 5. That a NEW SECTION be added to a NEW CHAPTER in title 34:

A non-medical home care agency shall require every employed or contracted home care aide to submit to a criminal history background check in accordance with procedures established by the department.

Neither the owner of an agency, nor any home care aides employed by or contracted with the agency, may have been convicted of, or pled guilty or nolo contendere to, the following crimes in this state or a comparable crime in another state:

(1) A crime of violence, as defined by § 22-1-2;

(2) A sex crime listed in § 22-24B-1, or another crime under chapters 22-22, 22-22A, or 22-24A; or

(3) A Class A or B felony.

A non-medical home care agency may employ or contract with a home care aide on a temporary basis pending the receipt of the criminal history background check. The non-medical home care agency may, without liability, terminate a home care aide's employment or contract if the background check reveals a disqualifying record.

The agency may not disseminate any information obtained under this section to a person not employed by the agency.

Section 6. That a NEW SECTION be added to a NEW CHAPTER in title 34:

1 A non-medical home care agency shall maintain records documenting the type and
2 frequency of services provided to each client and shall provide client records to the
3 department upon request.

4 Client records and any personally identifiable information regarding a client are
5 confidential and may be disclosed only as permitted by law or as authorized by the client
6 or the client's designee.

7 **Section 7. That a NEW SECTION be added to a NEW CHAPTER in title 34:**

8 A non-medical home care agency shall carry professional liability insurance
9 coverage, from a company that holds a certificate of authority from the Division of
10 Insurance, with limits of no less than two hundred fifty thousand dollars per occurrence.

11 **Section 8. That a NEW SECTION be added to a NEW CHAPTER in title 34:**

12 The department may inspect or audit a non-medical home care agency, during
13 business hours, for compliance with this chapter, based on reasonable cause. The
14 department shall provide notice to the non-medical home care agency before conducting
15 an inspection or audit.

16 The department shall investigate any complaint alleging a violation of this chapter
17 or rules promulgated thereunder in the same manner as chapter 36-1C.

18 **Section 9. That a NEW SECTION be added to a NEW CHAPTER in title 34:**

19 The department may, in accordance with chapter 1-26, deny the issuance or
20 renewal of, or may suspend or revoke, a license issued under this chapter, for a violation
21 of any provision of this chapter or rules promulgated thereunder.

22 Any party aggrieved by any act, ruling, or decision of the department may appeal
23 the act, ruling, or decision under the provisions of chapter 1-26.

24 **Section 10. That a NEW SECTION be added to a NEW CHAPTER in title 34:**

25 The department shall promulgate rules, in accordance with chapter 1-26, to
26 establish:

27 (1) The application process for licensure as a non-medical home care agency;

28 (2) Home care aide training program standards necessary to protect the health and
29 safety of clients;

30 (3) Record keeping requirements for agencies; and

- 1 (4) Procedures for the completion of criminal history background checks for
2 prospective agency employees or contractors.

3 **Section 11. That a NEW SECTION be added to a NEW CHAPTER in title 34:**

4 There is created in the state treasury the non-medical home care agency regulatory
5 fund. The fund consists of all fees imposed pursuant to this chapter.

6 The department shall administer the fund. The purpose of the fund is to defray
7 expenses associated with administering this chapter. Interest on moneys credited to the
8 fund must be deposited into the fund. Expenditures from the fund must be budgeted
9 through the general appropriation bill.

10 **Section 12. That a NEW SECTION be added to a NEW CHAPTER in title 34:**

11 This chapter does not apply to:

- 12 (1) A home health agency certified by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services;
13 (2) A health care facility licensed in accordance with chapter 34-12;
14 (3) A residential care facility registered in accordance with chapter 34-12;
15 (4) A community services provider or a community support provider;
16 (5) A health care professional, licensed in accordance with title 36, who provides non-
17 medical home cares services in conjunction with health care services in an
18 individual's personal residence;
19 (6) A person who coordinates, refers, or matches a non-medical home care agency to
20 a potential client, but who does not employ or contract with any home care aides;
21 or
22 (7) An individual who provides care to another family member.

23 **Section 13. That a NEW SECTION be added to a NEW CHAPTER in title 34:**

24 Nothing in this chapter authorizes a non-medical home care agency to provide
25 services that are required to be provided by a licensed health care professional.

26 **Section 14. This Act is effective beginning January 1, 2027.**