

# **One Hundred Eighth Legislature - First Session - 2023**

## **Introducer's Statement of Intent**

### **LB572**

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**Chairperson: Senator Ben Hansen**

**Committee: Health and Human Services**

**Date of Hearing:**

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

Medical nutrition therapy has been a regulated health profession in Nebraska since 1970; this bill updates the practice act, modernizes terminology (making the professional title consistent with other states), and provides a pathway to licensure for certified nutrition specialists.

LB572 changes the credential to practice medical nutrition therapy from a Licensed Medical Nutrition Therapist to either a Licensed Dietitian Nutritionist (for a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist) or a Licensed Nutritionist (for Certified Nutrition Specialists and nonregistered dietitian nutritionist). After a 407 credential review by the Department of Health and Human Services, this bill reflects the application unanimously approved as protective of patient safety by the technical review committee on March 9, 2021, the state Board of Health on March 15, 2021, and by Dr. Gary Anthone, the Director of Public Health and Chief Medical Officer for the State of Nebraska on April 12, 2021.

Exemptions in the bill clarify the activities for which no licensure is required, including providing nutrition information, guidance, motivation, nutrition recommendations, behavior change management, health coaching, holistic and wellness education, or other nutrition-care services that do not constitute medical nutrition therapy.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Senator Merv Riepe**