

1999 ASSEMBLY BILL 415

July 15, 1999 – Introduced by Representatives URBAN, JOHNSRUD, MILLER, FREESE, BLACK, KELSO, LASSA, LADWIG, STASKUNAS, SERATTI, J. LEHMAN, LA FAVE, BRANDEMUEHL, GRONEMUS, MUSSER and ALBERS, cosponsored by Senators MOEN, RUDE, BRESKE, ERPENBACH, SCHULTZ, ROBSON, A. LASEE and PLACHE. Referred to Committee on Public Health.

1 AN ACT *to amend* 250.02 (1) of the statutes; **relating to:** requirements for a state
2 health officer.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, the secretary of health and family services must appoint and may assign duties to a state health officer. No qualifications are required for appointment as the state health officer. The state health officer is required to appoint state epidemiologists for program areas of acute and communicable diseases, occupational and environmental diseases, maternal and child health and chronic diseases and to appoint chief medical officers to provide consultation and leadership to state health programs. (The chief medical officers also serve as state epidemiologists and have those powers that the state health officer designates to them to enforce state health laws and advise state and local officials on certain health matters.) In addition, the state health officer is authorized to appoint advisory and examining bodies.

Also, under current law, certain medical education, licensure and experience requirements are specified for local health officers of Level I, II and III local health departments. In all counties of this state except one (Racine County), the local health officer of a Level I local health department must have at least a bachelor's degree from a nursing program that is accredited by certain entities.

This bill requires that the state health officer meet at least the educational requirement that is specified for local health officers of Level I local health departments in all counties of the state except Racine County. The bill takes effect on January 1, 2000, or on the first day of the 4th month beginning after this bill becomes law, whichever is earlier.

