



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 416

PRINTERS NO. 910

PRIME SPONSOR: Gordner

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2020/21	FY 2021/22
Professional Licensure Augmentation Account	\$0	See "Fiscal Impact"

SUMMARY: Amends the Professional Nursing Law to provide for title designation and certification for Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists. This legislation would take effect in 60 days.

ANALYSIS: This legislation amends Act 69 of 1951, otherwise known as the Professional Nursing Law, to provide for title designation, certification qualifications and scope of practice for Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs).

Title Designation: Section 3 of the Act is amended to add language establishing the "CRNA" designation in Pennsylvania and provides CRNAs the right to use the title "certified registered nurse anesthetist".

Certification: A new section is added to the Act outlining the requirements and qualifications for CRNA certification. Under the legislation, the State Board of Nursing (Board) is required to create a certification category for CRNAs.

To be eligible for certification, a registered nurse must:

- hold a master's degree, doctoral degree, or post-master's certificate from an educational program in nurse anesthesia that has been approved by the Board and that prepares graduates to practice as a CRNA;
- hold current national certification as a CRNA from a Board-recognized national certification organization that requires passing a national certifying examination in nurse anesthesia; and
- meet all other Board requirements.

A registered nurse who does not have the required graduate degree shall be qualified for certification as a CRNA if that nurse:

- meets the educational requirements for CRNAs that were in effect in this Commonwealth at the time the nurse completed a nurse anesthesia educational program; and
- submits evidence of recertification as a CRNA from a Board-recognized national certification organization that requires passing a national certifying examination in nurse anesthesia.

As a condition of biennial certificate renewal by the Board, a CRNA must:

- verify that the nurse holds current national recertification from a Board-recognized national certification organization that requires passing a national certifying examination in nurse anesthesia;
- submit a renewal application to the Board and pay a renewal fee as set by the Board;
- complete at least 30 hours of continuing education approved by the Board.

A CRNA practicing in this Commonwealth is required to maintain a level of professional liability coverage as required for a nonparticipating health care provider under the Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error Act.

Scope of Practice: A new section is added to the Act granting a CRNA the authority to perform anesthesia services in cooperation with a physician, podiatrist or dentist involved in a procedure for which anesthesia care is being provided if the anesthesia services are performed under the overall direction of any of the following:

- A physician licensed by the State Board of Medicine or the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine who has completed an accredited residency training program in anesthesiology;
- A physician licensed by the State Board of Medicine or the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine who is performing the procedure for which the CRNA is performing anesthesia services;
- A podiatrist licensed by the State Board of Podiatry who is performing the procedure for which the CRNA is performing anesthesia services; or
- A dentist licensed by the State Board of Dentistry and permitted by the act of May 1, 1933 (P.L. 216, No. 76), known as "The Dental Law" or the State Board of Dentistry to administer, supervise or direct administration of anesthesia.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to:

- Prohibit a CRNA who would otherwise require direction from providing brief periods of care in the event of an emergency that temporarily prevents or interferes with overall direction;
- Restricts the authority of a health care facility to provide for additional oversight requirements for a CRNA practicing within the facility; or
- Limit or prohibit a CRNA from engaging in those activities which normally constitute the practice of nursing.

Regulations: The State Board of Nursing is required to promulgate regulations to implement the provisions within 18 months of the effective date of this section.

FISCAL IMPACT: According to the Department of State, there are roughly 3,200 CRNAs practicing in Pennsylvania. There are an additional 588 CRNA students currently within the 13 nursing anesthesia programs in the Commonwealth. In order to implement the legislation, the board would have to create applications for the CRNAs and issue and renew certifications for CRNAs. The application process would be funded through the application fee.

The Department estimates that additional staff costs and one-time costs for IT system upgrades would be approximately \$400,000. Any additional costs would be offset through biennial renewal fees.

PREPARED BY: Tim Rodrigo
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: June 24, 2021

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.