

**SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
FISCAL NOTE**

**BILL NO.** Senate Bill 325

**PRINTER NO.** 307

**AMOUNT**

No Fiscal Impact

**FUND**

Restricted Account – State Board of Nursing

**DATE INTRODUCED**

February 26, 2019

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Senator Gordner

**DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL**

Senate Bill 325 amends the Professional Nursing Law to provide for certified registered nurse anesthetist designation.

Senate Bill 325 establishes the certified registered nurse anesthetist ("CRNA") designation in Pennsylvania. The legislation grants an individual who holds a license to practice professional nursing and who meets the requirements of this act the right to use the CRNA designation, exclusively.

The bill defines "certified registered nurse anesthetist" as a registered nurse licensed in the Commonwealth who is certified by the State Board of Nursing ("board") as a certified registered nurse anesthetist.

A CRNA receives certification if he or she meets the following requirements:

- Hold a master's degree, doctoral degree or post-master's certification from a board-approved accredited educational program in nurse anesthesia;
- Hold a current national certification as a CRNA from a board-recognized national certification organization which required passing of a national certifying examination in nurse anesthesia; and
- Meets all other board requirements to practice as a CRNA.

A registered nurse who does not have a graduate degree qualifies for certification as a CRNA if that nurse:

- Meets the educational requirements for CRNAs that were in effect 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, which required passing of a national certifying examination in nurse anesthesia.

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As a condition of certification renewal, a CRNA must:

- Verify that he or she holds current recertification from a board-recognized national certification organization which required passing of a national certifying examination in nurse anesthesia;
- Submit a renewal application and fee to the board; and
- Complete at least 30 hours of board approved continuing education during the two-year period prior to certification renewal.

The bill authorizes the board to issue a certification to a registered nurse anesthetist who has completed a course of study considered by the board to be equivalent to the requirements of this act at the time such course was completed or who is licensed or certified by another state or foreign country as deemed equivalent to Pennsylvania's certification requirements.

The bill requires that a CRNA must maintain professional liability coverage as required for a nonparticipating health care provider under the Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error ("Mcare") Act.

The bill requires the board to promulgate regulations to implement the provisions of this legislation within 18 months of the effective date.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

Senate Bill 325 will have no fiscal impact to the Commonwealth.

According to the Department of State, at the time the bill was introduced the Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists (PANA) estimated that 3,200 CRNAs practice in Pennsylvania. There are an additional 588 CRNA students currently within the 13 nursing anesthesia programs in the Commonwealth. Given the potential number of CRNAs, additional staff may be required. In order to implement the bill, 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 estimated cost from the department is \$356,879 for various personnel related matters and an additional \$56,125 for infrastructure costs. As stated earlier, these costs will be paid through increased renewal fees and would not have a fiscal impact to the Commonwealth.