

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 764 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY CUTLER, DeLISSIO, MILLARD, BENNINGHOFF, COHEN, BAKER, BARRAR, SAYLOR, FREEMAN, CALTAGIRONE, TOPPER, STAATS, GROVE, M. K. KELLER, GABLER, WATSON, MURT, ROZZI, ZIMMERMAN, EVERETT, EVANKOVICH, MOUL AND MILNE, MARCH 10, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, MARCH 10, 2015

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of May 22, 1951 (P.L.317, No.69), entitled, as
 2 amended, "An act relating to the practice of professional
 3 nursing; providing for the licensing of nurses and for the
 4 revocation and suspension of such licenses, subject to
 5 appeal, and for their reinstatement; providing for the
 6 renewal of such licenses; regulating nursing in general;
 7 prescribing penalties and repealing certain laws," further
 8 providing for definitions and for registered nurse, clinical
 9 nurse specialist, use of titles and abbreviations; and
 10 providing for certified registered nurse anesthetists.

11 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
 12 hereby enacts as follows:

13 Section 1. Section 2 of the act of May 22, 1951 (P.L.317,
 14 No.69), known as The Professional Nursing Law, is amended by
 15 adding a clause to read:

16 Section 2. Definitions.--When used in this act, the
 17 following words and phrases shall have the following meanings
 18 unless the context provides otherwise:

19 * * *

20 (16) "Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist" means a
 21 registered nurse licensed in this Commonwealth who is certified

1 by the State Board of Nursing as a certified registered nurse
2 anesthetist.

3 Section 2. Section 3 of the act, amended May 8, 2012
4 (P.L.247, No.35), is amended to read:

5 Section 3. Registered Nurse, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Use
6 of Title and Abbreviation "R.N." [or] "C.N.S." or "C.R.N.A.";
7 Credentials; Fraud.--(a) Any person who holds a license to
8 practice professional nursing in this Commonwealth, or who is
9 maintained on inactive status in accordance with section 11 of
10 this act, shall have the right to use the titles "nurse" and
11 "registered nurse" and the abbreviation "R.N." No other person
12 shall engage in the practice of professional nursing or use the
13 titles "nurse" or "registered nurse" or the abbreviation "R.N."
14 to indicate that the person using the same is a registered
15 nurse, except that the title "nurse" also may be used by a
16 person licensed under the provisions of the act of March 2, 1956
17 (1955 P.L.1211, No.376), known as the "Practical Nurse Law." No
18 person shall sell or fraudulently obtain or fraudulently furnish
19 any nursing diploma, license, record, or registration or aid or
20 abet therein.

21 (b) An individual who holds a license to practice
22 professional nursing in this Commonwealth who meets the
23 requirements under sections 6.2 and 8.5 of this act to be a
24 clinical nurse specialist shall have the right to use the title
25 "clinical nurse specialist" and the abbreviation "C.N.S." No
26 other person shall have that right.

27 (c) Notwithstanding subsection (a), this section shall not
28 prohibit the use by a person of a descriptive title for nurse
29 assistive personnel. For the purposes of this subsection, the
30 term "nurse assistive personnel" shall mean an individual

1 providing health care services under the supervision of a
2 professional or practical nurse.

3 (d) An individual who holds a license to practice
4 professional nursing in this Commonwealth who meets the
5 requirements under section 8.8 of this act to be a certified
6 registered nurse anesthetist shall have the right to use the
7 title "certified registered nurse anesthetist" and the
8 abbreviation "C.R.N.A." No other person shall have that right.

9 Section 3. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

10 Section 8.8. Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist;
11 Qualifications.--(a) The board may certify a licensed
12 registered nurse as a certified registered nurse anesthetist if
13 the nurse satisfies the requirements established by this act.
14 Certification of a certified registered nurse anesthetist by the
15 board shall expire on the same date as the license of that nurse
16 expires. Beginning on the effective date of this section, a
17 nurse shall not qualify for initial certification by the board
18 unless the nurse holds a master's degree, doctoral degree or
19 post-master's certificate from an educational program in nurse
20 anesthesia that has been approved by the board and that prepares
21 graduates to practice as a certified registered nurse
22 anesthetist and:

23 (1) holds current national certification as a certified
24 registered nurse anesthetist; and

25 (2) meets all other board requirements to practice as a
26 certified registered nurse anesthetist.

27 (b) A registered nurse who does not have a graduate degree
28 as enumerated in subsection (a) of this section shall be
29 qualified for certification as a certified registered nurse
30 anesthetist if that nurse:

1 (1) meets the educational requirements for certified
2 registered nurse anesthetists that were in effect in the
3 Commonwealth at the time the nurse completed nurse anesthesia
4 educational program; and

5 (2) submits evidence of recertification as a certified
6 registered nurse.

7 (c) As a condition of biennial certificate renewal by the
8 board, a certified registered nurse anesthetist must:

9 (1) Demonstrate that the nurse holds current national
10 recertification from the appropriate national recertifying body
11 as recognized by the board.

12 (2) Submit a renewal application to the board.

13 (3) Pay a renewal fee as set by the board.

14 (4) In the two years prior to the certification renewal,
15 complete at least thirty (30) hours of continuing education
16 approved by the board, as required under section 12.1.

17 (d) For certification under this act, a licensed registered
18 nurse shall file a board-prepared application with the board and
19 pay a fee as established by the board by regulation.

20 (e) A certified registered nurse anesthetist practicing in
21 this Commonwealth shall maintain a level of professional
22 liability coverage as required for a nonparticipating health
23 care provider under the act of March 20, 2002 (P.L.154, No.13),
24 known as the "Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error
25 (Mcare) Act," and shall not be eligible to participate in the
26 Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error (Mcare) Fund.

27 Section 4. The State Board of Nursing shall promulgate
28 regulations to implement the amendment or addition of sections
29 2(16), 3 and 8.8 of the act within 18 months of the effective
30 date of this section.

1 Section 5. This act shall take effect in 60 days.