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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 719 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY CUTLER, DeLISSIO, SACCONI, BURNS, RYAN, BAKER,  
IRVIN, TOPPER, BARRAR, GABLER, WATSON, FREEMAN, WHEELAND,  
MILNE, CALTAGIRONE, BENNINGHOFF, M. K. KELLER, MURT,  
PASHINSKI, EVANKOVICH, NEILSON, HILL-EVANS AND WARD,  
MARCH 6, 2017

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, MARCH 6, 2017

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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 title and abbreviation and providing  
10 for certified registered nurse anesthetist.

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

1 registered nurse licensed in this Commonwealth who is certified  
2 by the State Board of Nursing as a certified registered nurse  
3 anesthetist.

4 Section 2. Section 3 of the act is amended to read:

5 Section 3. Registered Nurse, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Use  
6 of Title and Abbreviation ["R.N." or] "R.N.," "C.N.S." or  
7 "C.R.N.A."; Credentials; Fraud.--(a) Any person who holds a  
8 license to practice professional nursing in this Commonwealth,  
9 or who is maintained on inactive status in accordance with  
10 section 11 of this act, shall have the right to use the titles  
11 "nurse" and "registered nurse" and the abbreviation "R.N." No  
12 other person shall engage in the practice of professional  
13 nursing or use the titles "nurse" or "registered nurse" or the  
14 abbreviation "R.N." to indicate that the person using the same  
15 is a registered nurse, except that the title "nurse" also may be  
16 used by a person licensed under the provisions of the act of  
17 March 2, 1956 (1955 P.L.1211, No.376), known as the "Practical  
18 Nurse Law." No person shall sell or fraudulently obtain or  
19 fraudulently furnish any nursing diploma, license, record, or  
20 registration or aid or 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 required under subsection (a) shall be qualified for  
29 certification as a certified registered nurse anesthetist if  
30 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.