
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1064 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY TOOHL, DeLISSIO, BERNSTINE, TOPPER, M. K. KELLER,
T. DAVIS, SANKEY, CIRESI, FREEMAN, MURT, MASSER, NEILSON,
WHEATLEY, BARRAR, SAYLOR, COX, MEHAFFIE, DIAMOND, FLYNN,
PUSKARIC, SCHWEYER, ROTHMAN, SIMS, STEPHENS, GABLER, BROWN,
HARKINS, NELSON AND REESE, APRIL 5, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, APRIL 5, 2019

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
14 section. Certification of a certified registered nurse
15 anesthetist by the board shall expire on the same date as the
16 license of that nurse expires. Beginning on the effective date
17 of this section, a nurse shall not qualify for initial
18 certification by the board unless the nurse holds a master's
19 degree, doctoral degree or post-master's certificate from an
20 educational program in nurse anesthesia that has been approved
21 by the board and that prepares graduates to practice as a
22 certified registered nurse 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 a 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 section, a licensed
18 registered nurse shall file a board-prepared application with
19 the board and pay a fee as established by the board by
20 regulation.

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

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

1 date of this section.

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