
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 931 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY TOOHIL, SAYLOR, STEPHENS, FRITZ, LEWIS DELROSSO,
T. DAVIS, HILL-EVANS, NEILSON, CIRESI, WHEELAND, R. BROWN,
SANKEY, SIMS, HARKINS, JONES, FLYNN, BERNSTINE, ZABEL AND
LONGIETTI, MARCH 16, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, MARCH 16, 2021

AN ACT

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

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

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

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

20 * * *

21 (16) "Advanced practice registered nurse-certified

1 registered nurse anesthetist" means a registered nurse licensed
2 in this Commonwealth who is certified by the State Board of
3 Nursing as an advanced practice registered nurse - certified
4 registered nurse.

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

6 Section 3. [Registered Nurse, Clinical Nurse Specialist,]

7 Use of Title and Abbreviation ["R.N." or "C.N.S."] "R.N.,"

8 "C.N.S.," "C.R.N.A." or "A.P.R.N."; Credentials; Fraud.--(a)

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

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

28 (b.1) An individual who holds a license to practice
29 professional nursing in this Commonwealth who meets the
30 requirements under section 8.8 of this act to be an advanced

1 practice registered nurse-certified registered nurse anesthetist
2 shall have the right to use the title "advanced practice
3 registered nurse-certified registered nurse anesthetist,"
4 "certified registered nurse anesthetist" and the abbreviations
5 "C.R.N.A." or "A.P.R.N.". No other person shall have that right.

6 (c) Notwithstanding subsection (a), this section shall not
7 prohibit the use by a person of a descriptive title for nurse
8 assistive personnel. For the purposes of this subsection, the
9 term "nurse assistive personnel" shall mean an individual
10 providing health care services under the supervision of a
11 professional or practical nurse.

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

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

28 (1) holds current national certification as a certified
29 registered nurse anesthetist from a Board-recognized national
30 certification organization that requires passing a national

1 certifying examination in nurse anesthesia; and

2 (2) meets all other Board requirements to practice as an
3 advanced practice registered nurse.

4 (b) A registered nurse who does not have a graduate degree
5 required under subsection (a) shall be qualified for
6 certification as an advanced practice registered nurse-certified
7 registered nurse anesthetist if that nurse:

8 (1) meets the educational requirements for certified
9 registered nurse anesthetists that were in effect in this
10 Commonwealth at the time the nurse completed a nurse anesthesia
11 educational program; and

12 (2) submits evidence of recertification as a certified
13 registered nurse from a Board-recognized national certification
14 organization that requires passing a national certifying
15 examination in nurse anesthesia.

16 (c) As a condition of biennial certificate renewal by the
17 Board, an advanced practice registered nurse-certified
18 registered nurse anesthetist must:

19 (1) Verify that the nurse holds current national
20 recertification from a Board-recognized national certification
21 organization that requires passing a national certifying
22 examination in nurse anesthesia.

23 (2) Submit a renewal application to the Board.

24 (3) Pay a renewal fee as set by the Board.

25 (4) In the two years prior to the certification renewal,
26 complete at least thirty (30) hours of continuing education
27 approved by the Board, as required under section 12.1 of this
28 act.

29 (d) For certification under this section, a licensed
30 registered nurse shall file a Board-prepared application with

1 the Board and pay a fee as established by the Board by
2 regulation.

3 (e) The Board may issue a certification as an advanced
4 practice registered nurse-certified registered nurse anesthetist
5 to a licensed nurse who has completed a course of study
6 considered by the Board to be equivalent to a course of study
7 required in this Commonwealth under section 6.2 of this act and
8 this section at the time the course was completed, or who is
9 licensed or certified by another state, territory or possession
10 of the United States or a foreign country as deemed equivalent
11 to Pennsylvania's certification requirements, and who has met
12 all the requirements, including character, under this act.

13 (f) An advanced practice registered nurse-certified
14 registered nurse anesthetist practicing in this Commonwealth
15 shall maintain a level of professional liability coverage as
16 required for a nonparticipating health care provider under the
17 act of March 20, 2002 (P.L.154, No.13), known as the "Medical
18 Care Availability and Reduction of Error (Mcare) Act," and shall
19 not be eligible to participate in the Medical Care Availability
20 and Reduction of Error (Mcare) Fund.

21 Section 4. The State Board of Nursing shall promulgate
22 regulations to implement the amendment or addition of sections
23 2(16), 3 and 8.8 of the act within 18 months of the effective
24 date of this section.

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