

1 State of Arkansas As Engrossed: S3/7/23 H3/13/23 H4/3/23

2 94th General Assembly

# A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2023

SENATE BILL 79

4

5 By: Senator K. Hammer

6 By: Representative L. Johnson

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## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO ALLOW FULL INDEPENDENT PRACTICE AUTHORITY  
10 FOR CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALISTS; TO AUTHORIZE  
11 EXPERIENCE IN ANOTHER STATE TO QUALIFY FOR FULL  
12 INDEPENDENT PRACTICE AUTHORITY; AND FOR OTHER  
13 PURPOSES.

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## Subtitle

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18 TO ALLOW FULL INDEPENDENT PRACTICE  
19 AUTHORITY FOR CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALISTS;  
20 AND TO ALLOW EXPERIENCE IN ANOTHER STATE  
21 TO QUALIFY.

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 17-87-314(a)-(c), concerning full  
26 independent practice authority of certain nurses, are amended to read as  
27 follows:

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(a) As used in this section, “full independent practice authority”  
29 means the ability of a certified nurse practitioner or a clinical nurse  
30 specialist to practice with prescriptive authority without a collaborative  
31 practice agreement as described in § 17-87-310.

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(b)(1) The Full Independent Practice Credentialing Committee may grant  
33 a certificate of full independent practice authority to a certified nurse  
34 practitioner or a clinical nurse specialist who submits:

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(A) An application;

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(B) An appropriate application fee as determined by the



1 Full Independent Practice Credentialing Committee;

2 (C) Proof of successful completion of six thousand two  
3 hundred forty (6,240) hours of practice;

4 (i) Under ~~under a collaborative practice agreement~~ a  
5 board-required agreement with a physician; or

6 (ii) From another state, territory, or foreign  
7 country that authorizes a certified nurse practitioner or a clinical nurse  
8 specialist to practice with prescriptive authority if the certified nurse  
9 practitioner or clinical nurse specialist:

10 (a) Has prescriptive authority in the state,  
11 territory, or foreign country; and

12 (b) Provides proof of his or her licensure in  
13 good standing from:

14 (1) The state, territory, or foreign  
15 country; and

16 (2) The Arkansas State Board of Nursing;  
17 and

18 (D) Any other relevant information as determined by the  
19 Full Independent Practice Credentialing Committee.

20 (2) A certificate of full independent practice authority shall  
21 be renewed every three (3) years with an appropriate renewal fee as  
22 determined by the Full Independent Practice Credentialing Committee.

23 (c) A certified nurse practitioner or a clinical nurse specialist with  
24 a certificate of full independent practice authority may receive and  
25 prescribe drugs, medicines, or therapeutic devices appropriate to the  
26 certified nurse practitioner's area of practice or the clinical nurse  
27 specialist's area of practice.

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29 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 17-87-314(e), concerning full independent  
30 practice authority of certain nurses, is amended to read as follows:

31 (e) The Full Independent Practice Credentialing Committee shall:

32 (1)(A) Review and approve or deny all applications for a  
33 certificate of full independent practice authority for certified nurse  
34 practitioners or clinical nurse specialists and for renewal of a certificate  
35 of full independent practice authority for a certified nurse practitioner or  
36 a clinical nurse specialist.

1 (B) If the Full Independent Practice Credentialing  
2 Committee denies an application for a certificate of full independent  
3 practice authority, the Full Independent Practice Credentialing Committee  
4 shall explain the reasons for the denial in writing to the applicant;

5 (2) Review complaints made against certified nurse practitioners  
6 or clinical nurse specialists who have a certificate of full independent  
7 practice authority;

8 (3) Review recommendations made by the Arkansas State Medical  
9 Board and the Arkansas State Board of Nursing and notify the certified nurse  
10 practitioner or the clinical nurse specialist of any action taken by the Full  
11 Independent Practice Credentialing Committee based on the recommendations;

12 (4)(A) If the action taken is suspension or revocation of the  
13 certificate of full independent practice authority, hold a hearing providing  
14 the certified nurse practitioner or a clinical nurse specialist who has a  
15 certificate of full independent practice authority with ten (10) days' notice  
16 in writing to appear before the Full Independent Practice Credentialing  
17 Committee, at the time and place as the Full Independent Practice  
18 Credentialing Committee may direct, to show cause as to why his or her  
19 certificate of full independent practice authority should not be suspended or  
20 revoked.

21 (B) At the hearing, the Full Independent Practice  
22 Credentialing Committee shall:

23 (i)(a) Have the power to subpoena witnesses.

24 (b) The Chair of the Full Independent Practice  
25 Credentialing Committee or his or her designee shall sign subpoenas and have  
26 the power to administer oaths;

27 (ii) Hear evidence; and

28 (iii)(a) Determine if the certificate of full  
29 independent practice authority should be suspended or revoked.

30 (b) If the Full Independent Practice  
31 Credentialing Committee determines that the certificate of full independent  
32 practice authority should be suspended or revoked, the suspension or  
33 revocation shall take place immediately.

34 (C) However, only the Arkansas State Board of Nursing has  
35 the authority to suspend or revoke the nursing license of a certified nurse  
36 practitioner or a clinical nurse specialist; and

1 (5) Provide reports quarterly and upon request regarding the  
2 number of applicants approved and denied to the Senate Committee on Public  
3 Health, Welfare, and Labor and the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare,  
4 and Labor.

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6 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 17-87-314(g)-(h), concerning full  
7 independent practice authority of certain nurses, are amended to read as  
8 follows:

9 (g) A certified nurse practitioner or a clinical nurse specialist  
10 whose certificate of full independent practice authority has been denied,  
11 suspended, or revoked by the Full Independent Practice Credentialing  
12 Committee under this section may appeal the action of the Full Independent  
13 Practice Credentialing Committee under the Arkansas Administrative Procedure  
14 Act, § 25-15-201 et seq.

15 (h) A certified nurse practitioner or a clinical nurse specialist with  
16 a certificate of full independent practice authority shall conspicuously  
17 identify the certificate of full independent practice authority and that the  
18 certified nurse practitioner or the clinical nurse specialist is not required  
19 to have a collaborative practice agreement on signage in the office where the  
20 certified nurse practitioner or the clinical nurse specialist practices.

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22 /s/K. Hammer

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25 **APPROVED: 4/13/23**  
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