

House Bill 430

By: Representatives Powell of the 32nd, Nix of the 69th, Collins of the 68th, Ehrhart of the 36th,
Martin of the 49th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 26 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 nurses, so as to provide for licensure of advanced practice registered nurses; to revise
3 definitions; to provide for licensure requirements; to provide for renewal of licenses; to
4 provide for a misdemeanor to practice advanced nursing practice without a license; to amend
5 Code Section 16-13-72, Code Section 31-6-2, and Article 7 of Chapter 7 of Title 31 of the
6 Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the sale, distribution, or possession of
7 dangerous drugs, definitions relative to state health planning and development, and home
8 health agencies, respectively, so as to authorize advanced practice registered nurses and
9 physician assistants to order home health care services; to amend Article 3 of Chapter 2 of
10 Title 40 and Article 2 of Chapter 34 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
11 relating to prestige license plates and special plates for certain persons and vehicles and
12 medical practice, respectively, so as to authorize advanced practice registered nurses and
13 physician assistants to execute affidavits certifying an individual is disabled for purposes of
14 obtaining special vehicle decals for persons with disabilities; to amend Code Section 43-26-5
15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general powers and responsibilities
16 of the Board of Nursing, so as to authorize the collection of workforce data; to provide for
17 related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

H. B. 430

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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

19 **PART I**
20 **SECTION 1-1.**

21 Chapter 26 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to nurses, is
22 amended in Code Section 43-26-3, relating to definitions, by revising paragraphs (1) and
23 (1.1) as follows:

24 "(1) 'Advanced nursing practice' means practice by a registered professional nurse who
25 is licensed by the board under this article or who holds a multistate license under Article
26 4 of this chapter who meets those educational, practice, certification requirements, or any
27 combination of such requirements as specified by the board, and includes certified nurse
28 midwives, certified nurse practitioners, certified registered nurse anesthetists, clinical
29 nurse specialists and clinical nurse specialists in psychiatric/mental health, and others
30 recognized by the board.

31 (1.1) 'Advanced practice registered nurse' means a registered professional nurse who is
32 licensed by the board ~~under this article or who holds a multistate license under Article 4~~
33 ~~of this chapter, who is recognized by the board~~ as having met the requirements
34 established by the board to engage in advanced nursing practice, ~~and who holds a master's~~
35 ~~degree or other graduate degree from an approved nursing education program and~~
36 ~~national board certification in his or her area of specialty; within one of the following~~
37 ~~roles: certified nurse midwife, certified nurse practitioner, certified registered nurse~~
38 ~~anesthetist, or clinical nurse specialist and clinical nurse specialist in psychiatric/mental~~
39 ~~health, and who functions in a population focus~~ or a person who was recognized as an
40 advanced practice registered nurse by the board on or before June 30, 2006. This
41 paragraph shall not be construed to require a certified registered nurse anesthetist who
42 graduated from an approved nurse anesthetist educational program prior to January 1,

43 1999, to hold a master's degree or other graduate degree. Further, this paragraph shall not
44 be construed to require a registered professional nurse who holds a multistate license
45 under Article 4 of this chapter authorizing such nurse to practice in another party state
46 under a multistate licensure privilege to obtain a single-state license from the board as a
47 condition of receiving authorization by the board to practice in this state as an advanced
48 practice registered nurse."

49 SECTION 1-2.

50 Said chapter is further amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

51 "43-26-7.1.

52 (a) Any applicant who meets the requirements of this Code section shall be eligible for
53 licensure as an advanced practice registered nurse.

54 (b) An applicant for initial licensure to practice as an advanced practice registered nurse
55 shall:

56 (1) Submit a completed written application and fee;

57 (2) Be currently licensed by the board as a registered professional nurse;

58 (3) Have completed an accredited graduate or postgraduate level advanced practice
59 registered nursing program in one of the four roles specified under paragraph (1.1) of
60 Code Section 43-26-3 and at least one population focus;

61 (4) Be currently certified by a national certifying body recognized by the board in the
62 advanced practice registered nursing program role and population focuses appropriate to
63 educational preparation;

64 (5) Have satisfactory results from a fingerprint record check report conducted by the
65 Georgia Crime Information Center and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as
66 determined by the board. Application for licensure under this Code section shall
67 constitute express consent and authorization for the board or its representative to perform
68 a criminal background check. Each applicant who submits an application to the board

69 for licensure agrees to provide the board with any and all information necessary to run
70 a criminal background check, including, but not limited to, classifiable sets of
71 fingerprints. The applicant shall be responsible for all fees associated with the
72 performance of such criminal background check; and

73 (6) Meet such other criteria as established by the board.

74 (c) An applicant for reinstatement who has previously held a valid advanced practice
75 registered nurse license in Georgia shall:

76 (1) Submit a completed written application and fee;

77 (2) Meet continuing competency requirements as established by the board;

78 (3) Have satisfactory results from a fingerprint record check report conducted by the
79 Georgia Crime Information Center and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as
80 determined by the board. Application for licensure under this Code section shall

81 constitute express consent and authorization for the board or its representative to perform
82 a criminal background check. Each applicant who submits an application to the board
83 for licensure agrees to provide the board with any and all information necessary to run
84 a criminal background check, including, but not limited to, classifiable sets of
85 fingerprints. The applicant shall be responsible for all fees associated with the
86 performance of such criminal background check; and

87 (4) Meet such other criteria as established by the board."

88 **SECTION 1-3.**

89 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 43-26-9, relating to biennial
90 renewal of licenses, continuing competency requirements, voluntary surrender or failure to
91 renew license, and restoration and reissuance of license, as follows:

92 "43-26-9.

93 (a) Licenses issued under this article shall be renewed biennially according to schedules
94 and fees approved by the board.

95 (b) A renewed license shall be issued to a registered professional nurse or licensed
96 undergraduate nurse who remits the required fee and complies with requirements
97 established by the board.

98 ~~(b.1)~~(c) Beginning with the 2016 license renewal cycle, an applicant for license renewal
99 as a registered professional under this article shall meet one of the following continuing
100 competency requirements during the previous licensure period:

101 (1) Completion of 30 continuing education hours by a board approved provider;

102 (2) Maintenance of certification or recertification by a national certifying body
103 recognized by the board;

104 (3) Completion of an accredited academic program of study in nursing or a related field,
105 as recognized by the board;

106 (4) Verification of competency by a health care facility or entity licensed under Chapter
107 7 of Title 31 or by a physician's office that is part of a health system and at least 500
108 hours practiced as evidenced by employer certification on a form approved by the board;
109 or

110 (5) Other activities as prescribed and approved by the board that show competency in the
111 nursing field.

112 Failure to meet the minimum continuing competency requirement for renewal of a license
113 shall be grounds for denial of a renewal application. The board may waive or modify the
114 requirements contained in this subsection in cases of hardship, disability, or illness or under
115 such other circumstances as the board, in its discretion, deems appropriate. An applicant
116 who is renewing a license for the first time shall not be required to meet the requirements
117 of this subsection until the time of the second renewal if the applicant's initial license
118 period is six months or less.

119 (d) Advanced practice registered nurse licenses issued under this article shall be issued to
120 an advanced practice registered nurse who remits the required fee and complies with
121 requirements established by the board.

122 ~~(c)~~(e) The voluntary surrender of a license or the failure to renew a license by the end of
 123 an established penalty period shall have the same effect as a revocation of said license,
 124 subject to reinstatement at the discretion of the board. The board may restore and reissue
 125 a license and, as a condition thereof, may impose any disciplinary sanction provided by
 126 Code Section 43-1-19 or 43-26-11."

127 **SECTION 1-4.**

128 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 43-26-10, relating to practicing as
 129 a registered professional nurse without a license prohibited, as follows:

130 "43-26-10.

131 It shall be a misdemeanor for any person, including any corporation, association, or
 132 individual, to:

133 (1) Practice nursing as a registered professional nurse; or advanced practice registered
 134 nurse without a valid, current license, except as otherwise permitted under Code Section
 135 43-26-12;

136 (2) Practice nursing as a registered professional nurse or advanced practice registered
 137 nurse under cover of any diploma, license, or record illegally or fraudulently obtained,
 138 signed, or issued;

139 (3) Practice nursing as a registered professional nurse or advanced practice registered
 140 nurse during the time the license is suspended, revoked, surrendered, or administratively
 141 revoked for failure to renew;

142 (4) Use any words, abbreviations, figures, letters, title, sign, card, or device implying that
 143 such person is a registered professional nurse or advanced practice registered nurse unless
 144 such person is duly licensed or recognized by the board so to practice under the
 145 provisions of this article;

146 (5) Fraudulently furnish a license to practice nursing as a registered professional nurse
 147 or advanced practice registered nurse;

- 148 (6) Knowingly employ any person to practice nursing as a registered professional nurse
149 or advanced practice registered nurse who is not a registered professional nurse or
150 advanced practice registered nurse;
- 151 (7) Conduct a nursing education program preparing persons to practice nursing as
152 registered professional nurses or advanced practice registered nurses unless the program
153 has been approved by the board; or
- 154 (8) Knowingly aid or abet any person to violate this article."

155 **PART II**

156 **SECTION 2-1.**

157 Code Section 16-13-72 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the sale,
158 distribution, or possession of dangerous drugs, is amended by revising paragraph (4.2) as
159 follows:

160 "(4.2) A registered professional nurse licensed under Article 1 of Chapter 26 of Title 43
161 who is employed or engaged by a licensed home health agency may possess sterile saline,
162 sterile water, and diluted heparin for use as intravenous maintenance for use in a home
163 health setting, and such nurse may administer such items to patients of the home health
164 agency upon the order of a licensed physician, licensed advanced practice registered
165 nurse acting pursuant to the authority of Code Section 43-34-25, or licensed physician
166 assistant acting pursuant to the authority of subsection (e.1) of Code Section 43-34-103.
167 The State Board of Pharmacy shall be authorized to adopt regulations governing the
168 storage, quantity, use, and administration of such items; provided, however, nothing in
169 this paragraph or in such regulations shall be construed to restrict any authority of nurses
170 existing under other provisions of law;"

171 **SECTION 2-2.**

172 Code Section 31-6-2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the definitions
173 relative to state health planning and development, is amended by revising paragraph (20) as
174 follows:

175 "(20) 'Home health agency' means a public agency or private organization, or a
176 subdivision of such an agency or organization, which is primarily engaged in providing
177 to individuals who are under a written plan of care of a physician, licensed advanced
178 practice registered nurse acting pursuant to the authority of Code Section 43-34-25, or
179 licensed physician assistant acting pursuant to the authority of subsection (e.1) of Code
180 Section 43-34-103, on a visiting basis in the places of residence used as such individuals'
181 homes, part-time or intermittent nursing care provided by or under the supervision of a
182 registered professional nurse, and one or more of the following services:

183 (A) Physical therapy;

184 (B) Occupational therapy;

185 (C) Speech therapy;

186 (D) Medical social services under the direction of a physician, licensed advanced
187 practice registered nurse acting pursuant to the authority of Code Section 43-34-25, or
188 licensed physician assistant acting pursuant to the authority of subsection (e.1) of Code
189 Section 43-34-103; or

190 (E) Part-time or intermittent services of a home health aide."

191 **SECTION 2-3.**

192 Article 7 of Chapter 7 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
193 home health agencies, is amended by revising Code Section 31-7-150, relating to definitions,
194 as follows:

195 "31-7-150.

196 As used in this article, the term:

197 (1) 'Advanced practice registered nurse' means an individual licensed pursuant to Code
 198 Section 43-26-7.1 and acting pursuant to the authority of Code Section 43-34-25.

199 (2) 'Branch office' means a location or site, identified in the application or endorsement
 200 thereto, from which a home health agency provides services within a portion of the total
 201 geographic area served by the parent agency and which is part of the home health agency
 202 and is located sufficiently close to share administration, supervision, and services in a
 203 manner that renders it unnecessary for the branch independently to meet the requirements
 204 of this article.

205 ~~(1.1)~~(3) 'Department' means the Department of Community Health.

206 ~~(2)~~(4) 'Home health agency' means a public, nonprofit, or proprietary organization,
 207 whether owned or operated by one or more persons or legal entities, which is engaged in
 208 furnishing home health services.

209 ~~(3)~~(5) 'Home health services' means those items and services furnished to an individual
 210 according to a written plan of treatment signed by the patient's physician, an advanced
 211 practice registered nurse, or a physician assistant; by a home health agency; or by others
 212 under arrangement with the home health agency, on a visit or hourly basis, in a place of
 213 temporary or permanent residence used as the individual's home, as follows:

214 (A) Part-time or intermittent skilled nursing care as ordered by a physician, advanced
 215 practice registered nurse, or physician assistant and provided by or under the
 216 supervision of a registered nurse and at least one other service listed in subparagraphs

217 (B) through (D) of this paragraph;

218 (B) Physical, occupational, or speech therapy;

219 (C) Medical social services; and

220 (D) Home health aide services.

221 ~~(4)~~(6) 'License' means a license issued by the department.

222 ~~(5)~~(7) 'Licensee' means the individual, corporation, or public entity with whom rests the
 223 ultimate responsibility for maintaining approved standards for the home health agency.

224 ~~(6)~~(8) 'Parent home health agency' means the agency that develops and maintains
225 administrative controls of subunits or branch offices.

226 ~~(7)~~(9) 'Physician' means an individual currently licensed or authorized to practice
227 medicine, surgery, or osteopathy in this state.

228 (10) 'Physician assistant' means an individual licensed pursuant to Article 4 of Chapter
229 34 of Title 43 and acting pursuant to the authority of subsection (e.1) of Code Section
230 43-34-103.

231 ~~(8)~~(11) 'Plan of treatment' means a plan written, signed, and reviewed at least every two
232 months by the patient's physician, an advanced practice registered nurse, or a physician
233 assistant prescribing items and services for the patient's condition.

234 ~~(9)~~(12) 'Registered nurse' means an individual who is currently licensed as a registered
235 professional nurse in this state.

236 ~~(10)~~(13) 'Subunit' means a semiautonomous organization which serves patients in a
237 geographic area different from that of the parent agency and which, by virtue of the
238 distance between it and the parent agency, is judged incapable of sharing administration,
239 supervision, and services on a daily basis with the parent agency and must, therefore,
240 independently meet the licensing requirements for a home health agency and shall be
241 separately licensed."

242 **SECTION 2-4.**

243 Said article is further amended by revising Code Section 31-7-153, relating to standards for
244 patient care and agency operation, regulations as to issuance, denial, suspension, or
245 revocation of licenses, and hearings, as follows:

246 "31-7-153.

247 The department shall promulgate regulations which define standards for the care, treatment,
248 health, safety, welfare, and comfort of patients served by home health agencies and for the
249 maintenance and operation of home health agencies which will promote safe and adequate

250 care and treatment of the patients. These regulations shall be no less stringent than those
251 required for participation of home health agencies in the Title XVIII ~~medicare~~ Medicare
252 program and shall include, but not be limited to, a provision requiring the agency to have
253 policies established by a professional group which includes at least one physician and one
254 registered nurse and appropriate representation from other professional disciplines;
255 provisions governing the services the agency provides; provisions for the supervision of
256 services by a physician, advanced practice registered nurse, physician assistant, or
257 registered nurse, as appropriate, and maintenance of clinical records on all patients,
258 including a plan of treatment ~~prescribed by a physician~~. The department is authorized to
259 issue, deny, suspend, or revoke licenses in accordance with regulations promulgated
260 pursuant to this Code section. Such regulations shall also include hearing procedures
261 related to denial, suspension, or revocation of licenses."

262 **SECTION 2-5.**

263 Said article is further amended by revising Code Section 31-7-154, relating to inspections,
264 as follows:

265 "31-7-154.

266 Each home health agency for which a license has been issued shall be periodically
267 inspected by an authorized representative of the department. Such inspections shall be for
268 the purpose of ensuring that this article is being followed. The department is directed to
269 ensure by inspection that the licensee is providing quality care to its patients in accordance
270 with the orders of the patient's physician, an advanced practice registered nurse, or a
271 physician assistant; provided, however, that an agency shall be exempt from an additional
272 on-site licensure inspection if certified in a federal program for reimbursement of ~~medicare~~
273 Medicare or Medicaid services."

274

PART III

275

SECTION 3-1.

276 Article 3 of Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
277 prestige license plates and special plates for certain persons and vehicles, is amended by
278 revising Code Section 40-2-74.1, relating to temporary, permanent, and special permanent
279 parking permits for persons with disabilities, as follows:

280 "40-2-74.1.

281 (a) The department shall issue parking permits for persons with disabilities and may
282 delegate to county tag agents the responsibility for issuance of such permits to residents of
283 the county served by the tag agent. The department shall receive applications for and issue
284 parking permits by mail to persons with disabilities upon presentation of an affidavit of a
285 licensed doctor of medicine, licensed doctor of osteopathic medicine, licensed doctor of
286 podiatric medicine, licensed optometrist, ~~or~~ licensed chiropractor, licensed advanced
287 practice registered nurse acting pursuant to the authority of Code Section 43-34-25, or
288 licensed physician assistant acting pursuant to the authority of subsection (e.1) of Code
289 Section 43-34-103 stating that such person is a disabled person, the specific disability that
290 limits or impairs the person's ability to walk, and that he or she is a person with disabilities
291 as specified in paragraph (5) of Code Section 40-6-221. Permits shall be in such form as
292 the department prescribes but shall be of sufficient size and sufficiently distinctively
293 marked to be easily visible when placed on or affixed to the driver's side of the dashboard
294 or hung from the rearview mirror of the parked vehicle. Permits shall be made of a
295 substrate as determined by the commissioner and shall be of sufficient quality to ensure
296 that the coloring of the permit and the ink used thereon will resist fading for a period of at
297 least four years. Permits shall be issued to individuals, and the name of the individual and
298 an identification number shall appear on the permit. The individual to whom a permit is
299 issued may use the permit for any vehicle he or she is operating or in which he or she is a

300 passenger. Permits shall also be issued to institutions when the primary purpose of a
301 vehicle operated by the institution is to transport individuals with disabilities. The name
302 of the institution, the license number of the particular vehicle, and an identification number
303 shall appear on the permit. The institution shall use such permit only for a vehicle which
304 is operated by the institution and which is used primarily to transport individuals with
305 disabilities.

306 (b) The department shall issue a temporary permit to any temporarily disabled person upon
307 presentation of an affidavit of a licensed doctor of medicine, licensed doctor of osteopathic
308 medicine, licensed doctor of podiatric medicine, licensed optometrist, ~~or~~ licensed
309 chiropractor, licensed advanced practice registered nurse acting pursuant to the authority
310 of Code Section 43-34-25, or licensed physician assistant acting pursuant to the authority
311 of subsection (e.1) of Code Section 43-34-103 stating that such person is a temporarily
312 disabled person, the specific disability that limits or impairs the person's ability to walk,
313 that he or she is a person with disabilities as specified in paragraph (5) of Code Section
314 40-6-221, and a date until which such person is likely to remain disabled. The temporary
315 permit shall show prominently on its face an expiration date the same as the date specified
316 by such doctor for the likely termination of the disability, which date shall not be more than
317 180 days after the date the permit is issued. The expiration date shall be printed with
318 permanent ink and in boldface type of sufficient size to be legible when the permit is
319 displayed on the driver's side of the dashboard or hung from the rearview mirror.

320 (c) The department shall issue a permanent permit to any permanently disabled person
321 upon presentation of an affidavit of a licensed doctor of medicine, licensed doctor of
322 osteopathic medicine, licensed doctor of podiatric medicine, licensed optometrist, ~~or~~
323 licensed chiropractor, licensed advanced practice registered nurse acting pursuant to the
324 authority of Code Section 43-34-25, or licensed physician assistant acting pursuant to the
325 authority of subsection (e.1) of Code Section 43-34-103 stating that such person is a
326 permanently disabled person. The affidavit shall further state the specific disability that

327 limits or impairs the person's ability to walk or that he or she is a person with disabilities
328 as specified in paragraph (5) of Code Section 40-6-221. The department shall also issue
329 a permanent permit to an institution which operates vehicles used primarily for the
330 transportation of individuals with disabilities upon presentation of a certification from the
331 institution regarding use of its vehicles. The institution shall receive permits only for the
332 number of vehicles so used and shall affix the permits to the driver's side of the dashboards
333 of such vehicles. The permanent permit shall be predominantly blue in color and shall
334 show prominently on its face an expiration date four years from the date it is issued. The
335 expiration date shall be machine printed, not handwritten, in boldface type of sufficient size
336 to be legible when the permit is displayed on the driver's side of the dashboard or hung
337 from the rearview mirror.

338 (d) Any individual to whom a specially designated disabled veteran's license plate has
339 been issued pursuant to Code Sections 40-2-69 through 40-2-72 and any individual to
340 whom a specially designated disabled person's license plate has been issued pursuant to
341 Code Section 40-2-74 shall be authorized to park the passenger motor vehicle on which the
342 specially designated license plate is attached in a parking place for persons with disabilities
343 without the necessity of obtaining a parking permit for persons with disabilities pursuant
344 to this Code section.

345 (e) The department shall issue a special permanent permit to any person who:

346 (1) Because of a physical disability drives a motor vehicle which has been equipped with
347 hand controls for the operation of the vehicle's brakes and accelerator; or

348 (2) Is physically disabled due to the loss of, or loss of use of, both upper extremities.

349 This special permanent permit shall be gold in color and shall show prominently on its face
350 an expiration date four years from the date it is issued. The expiration date shall be printed
351 in a size of print that is legible when the permit is displayed on the driver's side of the
352 dashboard or hung from the rearview mirror. Such a special permit shall be used in the
353 same manner as, and shall be subject to the provisions of this Code section relating to,

354 other permanent parking permits for persons with disabilities and shall also be used as
355 provided in Code Section 10-1-164.1. In addition to any other required printing, the
356 following shall be printed upon this special gold permit:

357 'Code Section 10-1-164.1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated requires that any
358 owner or operator of a gasoline station that sells full-service gasoline at one price and
359 self-service at a lower price shall provide the service of dispensing gasoline at the
360 self-service price for the holder of this special permit when such holder requests such
361 service and is the operator of the vehicle and is not accompanied by another person 16
362 years of age or older who is not mobility impaired or blind.'

363 (f) The department and county tag agents shall not charge or collect any fee for issuing
364 parking permits for persons with disabilities under this Code section.

365 (g) Any special disabled person decal issued under the former provisions of this Code
366 section shall be valid until its expiration date but shall not be reissued.

367 (h) For purposes of this Code section, an active duty military physician shall be entitled
368 to submit an affidavit in support of the application of active duty or retired military
369 personnel for parking permits for persons with disabilities whether or not such physician
370 is licensed to practice in Georgia. Such affidavit shall state that the applicant is in active
371 military service and is stationed in Georgia pursuant to military orders or is retired from
372 the military and is a resident of Georgia and that such person is a disabled person, the
373 specific disability that limits or impairs the person's ability to walk, and that he or she is
374 a person with disabilities as specified in paragraph (5) of Code Section 40-6-221.

375 (i) For purposes of this Code section the department shall accept, in lieu of an affidavit,
376 a signed and dated statement from the doctor, advanced practice registered nurse, or
377 physician assistant which includes the same information as required in an affidavit written
378 upon security paper as defined in paragraph (38.5) of Code Section 26-4-5."

379

SECTION 3-2.

380 Article 2 of Chapter 34 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
381 medical practice, is amended in Code Section 43-34-23, relating to delegation of authority
382 to nurse or physician assistant, by revising subparagraph (b)(1)(B) as follows:

383 "(B) A physician may delegate to those health care professionals identified in
384 subparagraph (A) of this paragraph:

385 (i) The authority to order controlled substances selected from a formulary of such
386 drugs established by the board and the authority to order dangerous drugs, medical
387 treatments, and diagnostic studies;

388 (ii) The authority to request, receive, and sign for professional samples and to
389 distribute professional samples to patients. The office or facility at which the health
390 care professional identified in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph is working shall
391 maintain a general list of the professional samples approved by the delegating
392 physician for request, receipt, and distribution by the health care professional
393 identified in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph as well as a complete list of the
394 specific number and dosage of each professional sample and medication voucher
395 received. Professional samples that are distributed by a health care professional
396 identified in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph shall be so noted in the patient's
397 medical record. In addition to the requirements of this Code section, all professional
398 samples shall be maintained as required by applicable state and federal laws and
399 regulations; and

400 (iii) The authority to sign, certify, and endorse all documents relating to health care
401 provided to a patient within his or her scope of authorized practice, including, but not
402 limited to, documents relating to physical examination forms of all state agencies and
403 verification and evaluation forms of the Department of Human Services, the State
404 Board of Education, local boards of education, the Department of Community Health,
405 the Department of Driver Services, and the Department of Corrections; provided,

406 however, that a health care professional identified in subparagraph (A) of this
407 paragraph shall not have the authority to sign death certificates or assign a percentage
408 of a disability rating."

409 **SECTION 3-3.**

410 Said article is further amended in Code Section 43-34-25, relating to delegation of certain
411 medical acts to advanced practice registered nurse, construction and limitations of such
412 delegation, definitions, conditions of nurse protocol, and issuance of prescription drug orders,
413 by revising subsection (e.1) as follows:

414 "(e.1) Except for death certificates and assigning a percentage of a disability rating, an
415 advanced practice registered nurse may be delegated the authority to sign, certify, and
416 endorse all documents relating to health care provided to a patient within his or her scope
417 of authorized practice, including, but not limited to, documents relating to physical
418 examination forms of all state agencies and verification and evaluation forms of the
419 Department of Human Services, the State Board of Education, local boards of education,
420 the Department of Community Health, the Department of Driver Services, and the
421 Department of Corrections."

422 **PART IV**

423 **SECTION 4-1.**

424 Code Section 43-26-5 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general powers
425 and responsibilities of the Board of Nursing, is amended in subsection (a) by adding a new
426 paragraph to read as follows:

427 "(20.1) Be authorized to require the collection of workforce data from applicants when
428 issuing and renewing licenses under this chapter;"

429
430

PART V
SECTION 5-1.

431 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.