

Senate Bill 399

By: Senator Williams of the 27th

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 revise certain provisions relating to advanced nursing practice; to provide for  
3 changes to the roles and definitions of advanced nursing practice and advanced practice  
4 registered nurses; to provide for certain titles and abbreviations by licensed nurses; to repeal  
5 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Chapter 26 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to nurses, is  
9 amended in Code Section 43-26-3, relating to definitions, by revising paragraph (1) as  
10 follows:

11 "(1) 'Advanced nursing practice' means practice by a registered professional nurse who  
12 meets those educational, practice, certification requirements, or any combination of such  
13 requirements and who functions in a population focus, as specified by the board and  
14 includes certified nurse midwives, nurse practitioners, certified registered nurse  
15 anesthetists, clinical nurse specialists in psychiatric/mental health, and others recognized  
16 by the board."

17 **SECTION 2.**

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

19 "43-26-7.1.

20 (a)(1) An advanced practice registered nurse may serve as a primary or acute care  
21 provider of record.

22 (2) An advanced practice registered nurse's population focus shall include:

23 (A) Family and individual's life spans;

24 (B) Adult gerontology;

25 (C) Neonatal care;

26 (D) Pediatrics;

- 27 (E) Women's health; and  
 28 (F) Psychiatric and mental health.
- 29 (3) An advanced practice registered nurse's practice shall also include:  
 30 (A) Conducting an advanced health assessment;  
 31 (B) Ordering and interpreting diagnostic procedures;  
 32 (C) Establishing primary and differential diagnoses;  
 33 (D) Delegating and assigning therapeutic measures to assistive personnel;  
 34 (E) Consulting with personnel from other disciplines and providing referrals to health  
 35 care agencies, health care providers, and community resources;  
 36 (F) Wearing identification which clearly identifies the nurse as an advanced practice  
 37 registered nurse when providing direct patient care, unless wearing identification would  
 38 create a safety or health risk for either the nurse or the patient; and  
 39 (G) Other acts that require education and training consistent with professional  
 40 standards and commensurate with the advanced practice registered nurse's education,  
 41 certification, demonstrated competencies, and experience.
- 42 (4) Advance practice registered nurses are licensed independent practitioners within  
 43 standards established or recognized by the board. Each advanced practice registered  
 44 nurse is accountable to patients, the nursing profession, and the board for:  
 45 (A) Complying with the requirements of this chapter and the quality of advanced  
 46 nursing care rendered to patients;  
 47 (B) Recognizing limits of knowledge and experience;  
 48 (C) Planning for the management of situations beyond his or her experience; and  
 49 (D) Consulting with or referring patients to other health care providers as appropriate.
- 50 (b)(1) An applicant for initial licensure to practice as an advanced practice registered  
 51 nurse shall:  
 52 (A) Submit a completed written application and appropriate fees as established by the  
 53 board;  
 54 (B) Hold a current registered nurse's license or privilege to practice and shall not hold  
 55 an encumbered license or privilege to practice as registered nurse in any state or  
 56 territory;  
 57 (C) Have completed an accredited graduate or postgraduate level advance practice  
 58 registered nursing program in one of the four roles with at least one population focus;  
 59 (D) Be currently certified by a national certifying body recognized by the board in the  
 60 advanced practice registered nursing role and population focus appropriate to his or her  
 61 educational preparation;  
 62 (E) Report any criminal conviction, nolo contendere plea, Alford plea, or other plea  
 63 arrangement in lieu of conviction;

- 64 (F) Have committed no acts or omissions that are grounds for disciplinary action as set  
65 forth in this chapter; and
- 66 (G) Provide any evidence as required by board rules and regulations.
- 67 (2) The board may issue a license by endorsement to an advanced practice registered  
68 nurse licensed under the laws of another state if, in the opinion of the board, the applicant  
69 meets the qualifications for licensure in this state. An applicant for advanced practice  
70 registered nurse licensure shall:
- 71 (A) Submit a completed written application and appropriate fees as established by the  
72 board;
- 73 (B) Hold a current license or privilege to practice in any state or territory;
- 74 (C) Have completed an accredited graduate or postgraduate level advanced practice  
75 registered nurse program in one of the four roles with at least one population focus or  
76 meet the grandfathering provisions of this Code section;
- 77 (D) Be currently certified by a national certifying body recognized by the board in the  
78 advanced practice registered nursing role with at least one population focus appropriate  
79 to his or her educational preparation;
- 80 (E) Meet continued competency requirements as set forth in board rules and  
81 regulations;
- 82 (F) Report any conviction, nolo contendere plea, Alford plea, or other plea  
83 arrangement in lieu of conviction;
- 84 (G) Have committed no acts or omissions which are grounds for disciplinary action in  
85 another jurisdiction; and
- 86 (H) Provide other evidence as required by the board in its rules.
- 87 (3) Advanced practice registered nurses who receive licenses issued under this Code  
88 section shall have licenses renewed biennially and shall:
- 89 (A) Submit a renewal application and remit required fees as approved by the board;  
90 (B) Maintain national certification in the appropriate advanced practice registered  
91 nurse role with at least one population focus, authorized by licensure, through an  
92 ongoing certification maintenance program of a nationally recognized certifying body  
93 recognized by the board; and
- 94 (C) Meet other requirements as set forth by board rules and regulations.
- 95 (4) The board may reactivate or reinstate an advanced practice registered nurse license  
96 as provided for in Code Section 43-26-9.1.
- 97 (5) The applicant for an advanced practice registered nurse license must also meet any  
98 other requirements provided for under Code Section 43-26-7.
- 99 (c)(1) The board shall set standards for the establishment and outcomes of advanced  
100 practice registered nursing education programs, including clinical learning experiences.

101 and approve such programs that meet this chapter's requirements and board rules and  
 102 regulations.

103 (2) The board shall identify the process for determining education program compliance  
 104 with standards.

105 (3) The board shall set requirements for the establishment of any new advance practice  
 106 registered nurse education program, and such programs shall be required to be approved  
 107 by an advanced practice registered nurse accreditation program.

108 (d)(1) The board shall grant prescribing, ordering, dispensing, and furnishing authority  
 109 of pharmacological agents through the advanced practice registered nurse license.

110 (2) Prescribing, ordering, dispensing, and furnishing of pharmacological agents shall  
 111 include the authority to:

112 (A) Diagnose, prescribe, and institute therapy or referrals of patients to health care  
 113 agencies, health care providers, and community resources;

114 (B) Prescribe, procure, administer, dispense, and furnish pharmacological agents,  
 115 including over the counter, legend, and controlled substances; and

116 (C) Plan and initiate a therapeutic regimen that includes ordering and prescribing  
 117 nonpharmacological interventions, including, but not limited to, durable medical  
 118 equipment; medical devices; nutrition; blood and blood products; and diagnostic and  
 119 supportive services, including, but not limited to, home health care, hospice, and  
 120 physical and occupational therapy.

121 (e) Any person holding an advanced practice registered nurse license in this state that is  
 122 valid on December 30, 2018, shall be deemed to be licensed as an advanced practice  
 123 registered nurse under the provisions of this Code section with their current privileges and  
 124 shall be eligible for renewal of such license under the conditions and standards prescribed  
 125 in this Code section and otherwise applicable under this chapter."

### 126 **SECTION 3.**

127 Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 43-26-6, relating to use of certain titles and  
 128 abbreviations by licensed nurses, by revising subsections (a) and (c) as follows:

129 "(a) Any person who is licensed as a registered professional nurse shall have the right to  
 130 use the title 'registered professional nurse' and the abbreviation 'R.N.' Any person  
 131 recognized by the board as an advanced practice registered nurse shall have the right to use  
 132 the title 'advanced practice registered nurse' and the ~~abbreviation 'A.P.R.N.'~~ titles of  
 133 'certified registered nurse anesthetist,' 'certified nurse-midwife,' clinical nurse specialist,'  
 134 and 'certified nurse practitioner,' and the abbreviations 'A.P.R.N.,' 'C.R.N.A.,' 'C.N.M.,'  
 135 'C.N.S.,' and 'C.N.P.,' respectively. No other person shall assume such titles or use such  
 136 abbreviations or any other words, letters, signs, or symbols to indicate that such person is

137 a registered professional nurse or an advanced practice registered nurse in Georgia.  
138 Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to repeal the right of any person who is  
139 licensed as a registered professional nurse or recognized by the board as an advanced  
140 practice registered nurse on June 30, 2006, to be licensed and to use the title 'registered  
141 professional nurse' or to use the title 'advanced practice registered nurse,' respectively."  
142 "(c) Any person who is licensed as a registered professional nurse shall identify that he or  
143 she is so licensed by displaying either the title 'registered professional nurse' or 'registered  
144 nurse,' the abbreviation 'R.N.,' the title 'advanced practice registered nurse,' the titles of  
145 'certified registered nurse anesthetist,' 'certified nurse-midwife,' clinical nurse specialist,'  
146 and 'certified nurse practitioner,' or the abbreviation 'A.P.R.N.', 'C.R.N.A.', 'C.N.M.',  
147 'C.N.S.', and 'C.N.P.', or on a name tag or other similar form of identification during times  
148 when such person is providing direct patient care. An advanced practice registered nurse  
149 shall meet the identification requirements of this subsection by displaying the title or  
150 abbreviation of his or her area of specialization."

151 **SECTION 4.**

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