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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
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Office

S.B. 321  
(1\_134\_1891-2)  
134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

## Bill Analysis

**Version:** As Pending in Senate Health

**Primary Sponsor:** Sen. Romanchuk

Elizabeth Molnar, Attorney

### SUMMARY

- Authorizes a certified nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, or certified nurse-midwife who is employed by a hospital to sign documents related to patient admission, treatment, and discharge, if certain conditions are met.

### DETAILED ANALYSIS

#### Authority to sign documents relating to hospital patients

The bill authorizes a certified nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, or certified nurse-midwife to sign one or more documents relating to a hospital patient's admission, treatment, or discharge – if certain conditions are met.<sup>1</sup> The documents may include treatment plans and medication orders that are part of treatment plans.

#### Conditions on signing authority

The following three conditions must be satisfied in order for the certified nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, or certified nurse-midwife to be eligible to sign the documents. First, the nurse must be employed by the hospital, and the nurse's collaborating physician or podiatrist must either be employed by the hospital or be a member of its medical staff. Second, the nurse's collaborating physician or podiatrist must have authorized the nurse to sign documents relating to a patient's admission, treatment, or discharge. And third, the nurse's standard care arrangement must specify in writing that the nurse is authorized to sign documents for the physician's or podiatrist's patients.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> R.C. 4723.436(B).

<sup>2</sup> R.C. 4723.436(C) and 4723.431(C).

### **Standard care arrangement**

Current law unchanged by the bill requires a certified nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, or certified nurse-midwife to enter into a standard care arrangement with one or more collaborating physicians or podiatrists and to practice in accordance with it. A standard care arrangement is a written, formal guide for planning and evaluating a patient's health care that is developed by one or more collaborating physicians or podiatrists and the nurse.

### **Collaborating physician and podiatrist immunity**

The bill states that a collaborating physician or podiatrist who authorizes a nurse to sign one or more documents under the bill's provisions is not subject to civil liability, administrative action, or criminal prosecution for an act or omission that arises from the nurse signing the document.<sup>3</sup>

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## **HISTORY**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Date</b>
Introduced	04-12-22

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<sup>3</sup> R.C. 4723.436(D).