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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 274 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY GORDNER, STEFANO, GREENLEAF, BAKER, RESCHENTHALER,  
HUTCHINSON, VULAKOVICH, COSTA, YUDICHAK, BARTOLOTTA, SCHWANK  
AND DINNIMAN, JANUARY 31, 2017

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REFERRED TO CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE,  
JANUARY 31, 2017

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AN ACT

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

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

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

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

21 \* \* \*

22 (16) "Certified registered nurse anesthetist" means a

1 registered nurse licensed in this Commonwealth who is certified  
2 by the State Board of Nursing as a certified registered nurse  
3 anesthetist.

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

5 Section 3. Registered Nurse, Clinical Nurse Specialist,  
6 Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist, Use of Title and

7 Abbreviation ["R.N." or] "R.N.," "C.N.S." or "C.R.N.A.";

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

1 registered nurse anesthetist shall have the right to use the  
2 title "certified registered nurse anesthetist" and the  
3 abbreviation "C.R.N.A." No other person shall have that right.

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

10 (d) The board may issue a certification to a registered  
11 nurse anesthetist who has completed a course of study considered  
12 by the board to be equivalent to that required in this  
13 Commonwealth under sections 6.2 and 8.8 of this act at the time  
14 such course was completed, or who is licensed or certified by  
15 another state, territory or possession of the United States or a  
16 foreign country as deemed equivalent to Pennsylvania's  
17 certification requirements, and who has met all the  
18 requirements, including character, under this act.

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

20 Section 8.8. Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist;  
21 Qualifications.--(a) The board may certify a licensed  
22 registered nurse as a certified registered nurse anesthetist if  
23 the nurse satisfies the requirements established by this act.  
24 Certification of a certified registered nurse anesthetist by the  
25 board shall expire on the same date as the license of that nurse  
26 expires. Beginning on the effective date of this section, a  
27 nurse shall not qualify for initial certification by the board  
28 unless the nurse holds a master's degree, doctoral degree or  
29 post-master's certificate from an accredited educational program  
30 in nurse anesthesia that has been approved by the board and that

1 prepares graduates to practice as a certified registered nurse  
2 anesthetist and:

3 (1) holds current national certification as a certified  
4 registered nurse anesthetist from a board-recognized national  
5 certification organization which required passing of a national  
6 certifying examination in nurse anesthesia; and

7 (2) meets all other board requirements to practice as a  
8 certified registered nurse anesthetist.

9 (b) A registered nurse who does not have a graduate degree  
10 as required under subsection (a) shall be qualified for  
11 certification as a certified registered nurse anesthetist if  
12 that nurse:

13 (1) meets the educational requirements for certified  
14 registered nurse anesthetists that were in effect in this  
15 Commonwealth at the time the nurse completed a nurse anesthesia  
16 educational program; and

17 (2) submits evidence of recertification as a certified  
18 registered nurse anesthetist from a board-recognized national  
19 certification organization which required passing of a national  
20 certifying examination in nurse anesthesia.

21 (c) As a condition of biennial certificate renewal by the  
22 board, a certified registered nurse anesthetist shall:

23 (1) Verify that the nurse holds current recertification from  
24 a board-recognized national certification organization which  
25 required passing of a national certifying examination in nurse  
26 anesthesia.

27 (2) Submit a renewal application to the board.

28 (3) Pay a renewal fee as set by the board.

29 (4) In the two years prior to certification renewal,  
30 complete at least thirty (30) hours of continuing education

1 approved by the board, as required by section 12.1 of this act.

2 (d) For certification under this act, a licensed registered  
3 nurse shall file a board-prepared application with the board and  
4 pay a fee as established by the board by regulation.

5 (e) A certified registered nurse anesthetist practicing in  
6 this Commonwealth shall maintain a level of professional  
7 liability coverage as required for a nonparticipating health  
8 care provider under the act of March 20, 2002 (P.L.154, No.13),  
9 known as the "Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error  
10 (Mcare) Act," and shall not be eligible to participate in the  
11 Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error (Mcare) Fund.

12 Section 4. The State Board of Nursing shall promulgate  
13 regulations to implement the amendment or addition of sections  
14 2(16), 3 and 8.8 of the act within 18 months of the effective  
15 date of this section.

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