
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 481 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY VANCE, BAKER, GREENLEAF, FONTANA, MENSCH,
VULAKOVICH, DINNIMAN, HUTCHINSON, SCHWANK, YUDICHAK, GORDNER
AND COSTA, FEBRUARY 13, 2015

REFERRED TO CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE,
FEBRUARY 13, 2015

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" and for certified registered nurse anesthetists.

10 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
11 hereby enacts as follows:

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

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

18 * * *

19 (16) "Certified registered nurse anesthetist" means a
20 registered nurse licensed in this Commonwealth who is certified

1 by the State Board of Nursing as a certified registered nurse
2 anesthetist.

3 Section 2. Section 3 of the act, amended May 8, 2012
4 (P.L.247, No.35), 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, elsewhere in 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 enumerated in 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.