

2010 -- H 7416

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

A N A C T

RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- NURSES--EDUCATION

Introduced By: Representatives Giannini, E Coderre, Naughton, Fellela, and Lima

Date Introduced: February 09, 2010

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 5-34 of the General Laws entitled "Nurses" is hereby amended by
2 adding thereto the following section:

3 **5-34-11.1. Professional nurse applicants -- Educational requirements --Maintenance**
4 **of license. – (1) All professional nurse applicants graduating with an associate’s degree, or a**
5 **diploma from a nursing program, and licensed to practice in this state must attain a baccalaureate**
6 **degree in nursing within ten (10) years of initial licensure. In its discretion, the department may**
7 **issue a conditional registration to a licensee who fails to complete the baccalaureate degree, but**
8 **who agrees to meet the requirement within one year. The fee for a conditional registration shall**
9 **be the same as that specified in section 5-34-12, and the duration of such conditional registration**
10 **shall be for one year. Any licensee who is notified of a denial of registration for failure to**
11 **complete the additional education requirements and who practices as a registered professional**
12 **nurse without such registration shall be subject to the provisions of section 5-34-29.**

13 **(2) The provisions of subdivision (1) shall not apply to:**

14 **(i) Any student entering a baccalaureate program preparing registered professional nurses**
15 **after the effective date of this section;**

16 **(ii) Any student currently enrolled in, or having an application pending in a program**
17 **preparing registered nurses as of the effective date of this act; or**

18 **(iii) Any person already licensed as a registered professional nurse or any unlicensed**
19 **graduate professional nurse who is eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination**

1 [as of the effective date of this section.](#)

2 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- NURSES--EDUCATION

1 This act would require nurse applicants graduating with an associate's degree or diploma
2 from a nursing program to obtain a baccalaureate degree within ten (10) years of their initial
3 licensure. Students in baccalaureate program and persons already licensed as a registered
4 professional nurse or those unlicensed graduate professional nurses eligible to take the National
5 Council Licensure Examination would be exempt from such requirement.

6 This act would take effect upon passage.

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