

2010 -- S 2739

LC01044

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: Senators Perry, Miller, and Doyle

Date Introduced: March 25, 2010

Referred To: Senate Finance

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

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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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