



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 340

HOUSE BILL NO. 1353

By Representatives Vaughan, Freeman, Parkinson, Smith, Gillespie, Hurt, Camper,
Curcio, Doggett

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 1267

By Senators Reeves, Crowe, Massey, Jackson, Rose

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 63, Chapter 7, Part 1, relative to nursing graduates.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-7-105, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection (d):

(d)

(1) Notwithstanding a law to the contrary, a graduate nurse may engage in the practice of professional nursing without a license for a period not to exceed one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of receipt of the first authorization to take the NCLEX-RN examination if:

(A) The graduate nurse's practice occurs in a healthcare institution licensed under title 33 or 68, or an affiliate of the institution;

(B) The graduate nurse is at all times working under the supervision of an individual licensed to practice professional nursing pursuant to § 63-7-105. The graduate nurse must provide the healthcare institution or affiliate of the institution in which they are practicing with:

(i) Proof of the first authorization to take the NCLEX-RN examination; and

(ii) Proof of graduation from an approved school of nursing within the previous ninety (90) days; and

(C) The supervising individual licensed to practice professional nursing pursuant to § 63-7-105 is limited to supervising no more than one (1) graduate nurse at a time.

(2) A graduate nurse is prohibited from:

(A) Being deemed a qualified registered nurse pursuant to § 63-7-103; and

(B) Using another title or identifying as anything but a "graduate nurse" in a clinical setting.

(3) As used in this subsection (d):

(A) "Graduate nurse" means an individual who:

(i) Holds a diploma or degree from an approved school of nursing that entitles the individual to take the NCLEX-RN licensing examination; and

(ii) Has received authorization to take the NCLEX-RN examination;

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(B) "NCLEX-RN" means the national council licensure examination for registered nurses; and

(C) "Supervision" means that the graduate nurse's supervisor is located in the same unit as the graduate nurse when the graduate nurse is performing duties pursuant to this subsection (d).

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

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PASSED: April 19, 2021



CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



RANDY MCNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 4th day of May 2021



BILL LEE, GOVERNOR