

SENATE BILL 2135

By Reeves

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 63,
Chapter 7, relative to psychiatric mental health
nurses.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 63, Chapter 7, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

The board shall establish the designations of a:

(1) Psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner (APRN-PMHNP-BC) for a nurse practitioner who holds national specialty certification as a PMHNP-BC from the American Nurses Credentialing Center; and

(2) Psychiatric mental health clinical nurse specialist (APRN-PMHCNS-BC) for a clinical nurse specialist who holds national specialty certification as a PMHCNS-BC from the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-7-123, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection:

(e)

(1) Notwithstanding subdivision (b)(1), a nurse practitioner who has been issued a certificate of fitness pursuant to § 63-7-207 and this section, has been granted the designation of a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner (APRN-PMHNP-BC) pursuant to SECTION 1, and has provided satisfactory proof to the board showing the completion of at least three (3) years or six thousand two hundred forty (6,240) hours of full-time practice as a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner, may, in the course of providing psychiatric mental health

services, diagnose, create a plan of care, issue orders, and prescribe drugs and other treatments without a collaborating physician, subject to the limitations in subdivision (b)(2).

(2) Notwithstanding subdivision (b)(1), a clinical nurse specialist who has been issued a certificate of fitness pursuant to § 63-7-207 and this section, has been granted the designation of a psychiatric mental health clinical nurse specialist (APRN-PMHCNS-BC) pursuant to SECTION 1, and has provided satisfactory proof to the board showing the completion of at least three (3) years or six thousand two hundred forty (6,240) hours of full-time practice as a psychiatric mental health clinical nurse specialist, may, in the course of providing psychiatric mental health services, diagnose, create a plan of care, issue orders, and prescribe drugs and other treatments without a collaborating physician, subject to the same limitations as apply to a nurse practitioner in subdivision (b)(2).

(3) As used in this subsection (e), "full-time practice" does not include practice that is done as part of a clinical or other training environment.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect July 1, 2024, the public welfare requiring it.