

SENATE BILL 2569

By Crowe

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

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-7-110, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection:

(d)

(1) Notwithstanding a law to the contrary, a graduate nurse may engage in the practice of practical 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-PN 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 or § 63-7-110. The graduate nurse shall 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-PN examination; and

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

(C) The individual who is supervising a graduate nurse pursuant to this section is limited to supervising no more than one (1) graduate nurse at a time.

(2) A graduate nurse:

(A) Is not a qualified practical nurse pursuant to § 63-7-108; and

(B) Shall not use another title or identify as anything except 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 or vocational program that entitles the individual to take the NCLEX-PN licensing examination; and

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

(B) "NCLEX-PN" means the national council licensure examination for licensed practical nurses; and

(C) "Supervision" means that the graduate nurse's supervisor is:

(i) Located in the same unit as the graduate nurse when the graduate nurse is performing duties pursuant to this subsection (d); and

(ii) Reasonably available to provide assistance to the graduate nurse if needed.

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