

Title 32: PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS

Chapter 31: NURSES AND NURSING

Table of Contents

Subchapter 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS.....	5
Section 2101. PURPOSE.....	5
Section 2102. DEFINITIONS.....	5
Section 2103. EXCEPTIONS.....	8
Section 2104. EDUCATION PROGRAMS.....	10
Section 2104-A. NURSE ORIENTATION IN INSTITUTIONS.....	11
Section 2105. DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS (REPEALED).....	11
Section 2105-A. DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS.....	11
Section 2106. CRIMINAL VIOLATIONS; PENALTIES.....	14
Section 2106-A. CIVIL VIOLATIONS; PENALTIES.....	15
Section 2107. INJUNCTIONS.....	15
Section 2108. IMMUNITY (REPEALED).....	15
Section 2108-A. IMMUNITY.....	15
Section 2109. CONFIDENTIALITY OF PERSONAL INFORMATION OF APPLICANT OR LICENSEE.....	16
Section 2110. EXPEDITED PARTNER THERAPY.....	16
Section 2111. CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD INFORMATION; FEES.....	16
Subchapter 2. STATE BOARD OF NURSING.....	17
Section 2151. APPOINTMENT; TERM; REMOVAL.....	17
Section 2152. QUALIFICATIONS.....	17
Section 2153. POWERS AND DUTIES (REPEALED).....	18
Section 2153-A. POWERS AND DUTIES.....	18
Section 2153-B. LIAISON; LIMITATIONS.....	20
Section 2154. QUALIFICATIONS OF EXECUTIVE EMPLOYEE.....	20
Section 2155. COMPENSATION.....	21
Section 2156. DISPOSITION OF FUNDS.....	21
Section 2157. NURSING EDUCATION MOBILITY ADVISORY GROUP (REPEALED).....	21
Subchapter 2-A. NURSE LICENSURE COMPACT.....	21
Section 2171. SHORT TITLE; FINDINGS AND DECLARATION OF PURPOSE -- ARTICLE 1.....	21
Section 2172. DEFINITIONS -- ARTICLE 2.....	22
Section 2173. GENERAL PROVISIONS AND JURISDICTION -- ARTICLE 3.....	24
Section 2174. APPLICATIONS FOR LICENSURE IN A PARTY STATE -- ARTICLE 4.....	26

Section 2175. ADDITIONAL AUTHORITIES INVESTED IN PARTY STATE LICENSING BOARDS -- ARTICLE 5.....	27
Section 2176. COORDINATED LICENSURE INFORMATION SYSTEM AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION -- ARTICLE 6.....	28
Section 2177. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INTERSTATE COMMISSION OF NURSE LICENSURE COMPACT ADMINISTRATORS -- ARTICLE 7.....	29
Section 2178. RULEMAKING -- ARTICLE 8.....	33
Section 2179. OVERSIGHT, DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND ENFORCEMENT -- ARTICLE 9.....	35
Section 2180. EFFECTIVE DATE, WITHDRAWAL AND AMENDMENT -- ARTICLE 10.....	37
Section 2181. CONSTRUCTION AND SEVERABILITY -- ARTICLE 11.....	38
Subchapter 3. REGISTERED NURSES.....	38
Section 2201. QUALIFICATIONS.....	38
Section 2201-A. QUALIFICATIONS FOR ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE.....	39
Section 2202. LICENSES; EXAMINATION.....	39
Section 2202-A. CERTIFICATES; NURSING ASSISTANTS (REPEALED).....	40
Section 2202-B. CERTIFICATION FEE; DISPOSITION OF FEE; NURSING ASSISTANTS.....	40
Section 2203. -- PLACE (REPEALED).....	41
Section 2204. EXAMINATION; TIME.....	41
Section 2205. -- ENDORSEMENT (REPEALED).....	41
Section 2205-A. LICENSURE OF PERSONS LICENSED BY ANOTHER JURISDICTION.....	41
Section 2205-B. APPROVAL AS ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES.....	42
Section 2206. RENEWALS.....	43
Section 2207. REGISTERED NURSE; FEES.....	43
Section 2208. TITLE AND ABBREVIATION.....	44
Section 2209. REGISTRATION UNDER PRIOR LAW.....	44
Section 2210. REQUIREMENTS REGARDING PRESCRIPTION OF OPIOID MEDICATION.....	44
Section 2211. NURSE ANESTHETIST; AUTHORITY.....	46
Section 2212. DISPENSING OPIOID MEDICATION TO PATIENTS IN OPIOID TREATMENT PROGRAMS.....	47
Subchapter 4. PRACTICAL NURSES.....	47
Section 2251. QUALIFICATIONS (REPEALED).....	47
Section 2251-A. QUALIFICATIONS.....	47
Section 2252. LICENSE; EXAMINATION.....	48
Section 2253. -- TIME AND PLACE.....	48
Section 2254. -- ENDORSEMENT (REPEALED).....	48

Section 2254-A. LICENSURE OF PERSONS LICENSED BY ANOTHER JURISDICTION.....	48
Section 2255. RENEWALS.....	49
Section 2256. LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE; FEES.....	50
Section 2257. TITLE AND ABBREVIATION.....	50
Section 2258. REGISTRATION UNDER PRIOR LAW.....	50
Section 2258-A. ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION.....	51
Section 2258-B. DISPENSING OPIOID MEDICATION TO PATIENTS IN OPIOID TREATMENT PROGRAMS.....	51
Section 2259. WAIVER (REPEALED).....	51
Subchapter 5. COMMISSION ON NURSING SUPPLY AND EDUCATIONAL ACCESSIBILITY.....	51
Section 2261. COMMISSION (REPEALED).....	51
Subchapter 6. JOINT PRACTICE COUNCIL ON ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSING	51
Section 2265. COUNCIL (REPEALED).....	51

Maine Revised Statutes
Title 32: PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS
Chapter 31: NURSES AND NURSING

Subchapter 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS

§2101. PURPOSE

The State Board of Nursing is the state regulatory agency charged with protection of the public health and welfare in the area of nursing service. In order to safeguard the life and health of the people in this State, an individual who for compensation practices or offers to practice professional nursing or practical nursing in this State shall submit evidence that the individual is qualified so to practice and that individual must be licensed. It is unlawful for an individual not licensed under this chapter to practice or to offer to practice professional or practical nursing in this State; to use a sign, card or device to indicate that the individual is a professional registered nurse or a licensed practical nurse; or to hold oneself out to the public as a professional registered nurse or a licensed practical nurse. [1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §108 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

1967, c. 263, §1 (AMD). 1985, c. 724, §1 (AMD). 1993, c. 600, §A108 (AMD).

§2102. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter, unless the context indicates otherwise, the following words have the following meanings. [1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §109 (AMD).]

1. Board. "Board" means the State Board of Nursing.

2. Professional nursing. The practice of "professional nursing" means the performance by a registered professional nurse for compensation of professional services defined as follows:

A. Diagnosis and treatment of human responses to actual or potential physical and emotional health problems through such services as case finding, health teaching, health counseling and provision of care supportive to or restorative of life and well-being and execution of the medical regimen as prescribed by a legally authorized licensed professional acting within the scope of the licensed professional's authority to prescribe medications, substances or devices or otherwise legally authorized individual acting under the delegated authority of a legally authorized licensed professional acting within the scope of the licensed professional's authority to prescribe medications, substances or devices:

(1) "Diagnosis" in the context of nursing practice means that identification of and discrimination between physical and psychosocial signs and symptoms essential to effective execution and management of the nursing regimen. This diagnostic privilege is distinct from medical diagnosis;

(2) "Human responses" means those signs, symptoms and processes that denote the individual's health needs or reaction to an actual or potential health problem; and

(3) "Treatment" means selection and performance of those therapeutic measures essential to the effective management and execution of the nursing regimen; [2013, c. 540, §1 (AMD); 2013, c. 540, §2 (AFF).]

B. [1995, c. 379, §11 (AFF); 1995, c. 379, §3 (RP).]

C. Delegation of selected nursing services to licensed practical nurses when the services use standardized protocols and procedures leading to predictable outcomes in the observation and care of the ill, injured and infirm; in the maintenance of health; in action to safeguard life and health; and in the administration

of medications and treatments prescribed by an individual authorized by state law to prescribe. The board shall issue such rules concerning delegation as it considers necessary to ensure quality health care to the patient; [1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §110 (AMD).]

D. Delegation of selected nursing services to assistants to nurses who have completed or are currently enrolled in a course sponsored by a state-approved facility or a facility licensed by the Department of Health and Human Services. This course must include a curriculum approved by the board. The board shall issue such rules concerning delegation as it considers necessary to ensure quality of health care to the patient; [1995, c. 625, Pt. B, §11 (AMD); 2003, c. 689, Pt. B, §6 (REV).]

E. Supervision and teaching of nursing personnel; [1985, c. 724, §2 (RPR).]

F. Administration of medications and treatment as prescribed by a legally authorized individual. Nothing in this section may be construed as limiting the administration of medication by licensed or unlicensed personnel as provided in other laws; [1995, c. 670, Pt. C, §4 (AMD); 1995, c. 670, Pt. D, §5 (AFF).]

G. Teaching activities of daily living to care providers designated by the patient and family; and [1995, c. 670, Pt. C, §5 (AMD); 1995, c. 670, Pt. D, §5 (AFF).]

H. Coordination and oversight of patient care services provided by unlicensed health care assistive personnel. Nothing in this paragraph prohibits a nurse in the exercise of professional judgment from refusing to provide such coordination and oversight in any care setting. The board shall adopt, pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A, major substantive rules for the application of this paragraph to nursing practice. [1995, c. 670, Pt. C, §6 (NEW); 1995, c. 670, Pt. D, §5 (AFF).]

[2013, c. 540, §1 (AMD); 2013, c. 540, §2 (AFF) .]

2-A. Advanced practice registered nursing. "Advanced practice registered nursing" means the delivery of expanded professional health care by an advanced practice registered nurse that is:

A. [2003, c. 204, Pt. H, §1 (RP).]

B. Within the advanced practice registered nurse's scope of practice as specified by the board by rulemaking, taking into consideration any national standards that exist; and [1995, c. 379, §4 (NEW); 1995, c. 379, §11 (AFF).]

C. In accordance with the standards of practice for advanced practice registered nurses as specified by the board by rulemaking, taking into consideration any national standards that may exist. Advanced practice registered nursing includes consultation with or referral to medical and other health care providers when required by client health care needs. [1995, c. 379, §4 (NEW); 1995, c. 379, §11 (AFF).]

A certified nurse practitioner or a certified nurse midwife who qualifies as an advanced practice registered nurse may prescribe and dispense drugs or devices, or both, in accordance with rules adopted by the board.

A certified nurse practitioner who qualifies as an advanced practice registered nurse must practice, for at least 24 months, under the supervision of a licensed physician or a supervising nurse practitioner or must be employed by a clinic or hospital that has a medical director who is a licensed physician. The certified nurse practitioner shall submit written evidence to the board upon completion of the required clinical experience.

The board shall adopt rules necessary to effectuate the purposes of this chapter relating to advanced practice registered nursing.

[2007, c. 316, §1 (AMD) .]

3. Practical nursing. The practice of "practical nursing" means performing tasks and responsibilities, by a licensed practical nurse, for compensation within a structured health care setting, reinforcing the patient and family teaching program through health teaching, health counseling and provision of supportive and restorative care, under the direction of a registered nurse or licensed or otherwise legally authorized physician, podiatrist or dentist.

[1991, c. 731, §2 (AMD) .]

4. License. A "license" is an authorization to practice nursing as a professional nurse, practical nurse or advanced practice registered nurse.

[2007, c. 498, §1 (AMD); 2007, c. 498, §3 (AFF) .]

5. Professional nurse. The terms "professional nurse," "registered nurse" or "registered professional nurse" mean an individual who is currently licensed under this chapter and who practices professional nursing as defined in subsection 2. "R.N." is the abbreviation for the title of "registered professional nurse."

[1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §111 (AMD) .]

5-A. Advanced practice registered nurse. "Advanced practice registered nurse" means an individual who is currently licensed under this chapter to practice advanced practice registered nursing as defined in subsection 2-A. "A.P.R.N." is the abbreviation for the title of "advanced practice registered nurse." An advanced practice registered nurse may use the abbreviation "A.P.R.N." or the title or abbreviation designated by the national certifying body.

"Advanced practice registered nurse" includes a certified nurse practitioner, a certified nurse midwife, a certified clinical nurse specialist and a certified nurse anesthetist who are licensed under this chapter to practice advanced practice registered nursing.

[2007, c. 498, §2 (AMD); 2007, c. 498, §3 (AFF) .]

6. Licensed practical nurse. The term "licensed practical nurse" means an individual who is currently licensed under this chapter and who practices practical nursing as defined in subsection 3. "L.P.N." is the abbreviation for the title of "licensed practical nurse."

[1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §111 (AMD) .]

7. Approved nursing school. An " approved nursing school" or " approved nursing education program" means a school of nursing or a nursing department or division of a university or college or a school for the education of practical nurses approved by the board as provided in this chapter.

[1985, c. 724, §4 (AMD) .]

8. Certified nursing assistant. "Certified nursing assistant" means an individual whose duties are assigned by a registered professional nurse and who:

A. Has successfully completed a training program or course with a curriculum prescribed by the board, holds a certificate of training from that program or course and is listed on the Maine Registry of Certified Nursing Assistants and Direct Care Workers; or [2011, c. 257, §19 (AMD) .]

B. Was certified before September 29, 1987 and is listed on the Maine Registry of Certified Nursing Assistants and Direct Care Workers. [2011, c. 257, §20 (AMD) .]

[2011, c. 257, §§19, 20 (AMD) .]

9. Maine Registry of Certified Nursing Assistants and Direct Care Workers. "Maine Registry of Certified Nursing Assistants and Direct Care Workers" has the same meaning as in Title 22, section 1812-G.

[2011, c. 257, §21 (AMD) .]

10. Supervising nurse practitioner. "Supervising nurse practitioner" means a certified nurse practitioner who qualifies as an advanced practice registered nurse who has:

- A. Completed 24 months of supervised practice in accordance with subsection 2-A; [2007, c. 316, §2 (NEW) .]
- B. Practiced as an advanced practice registered nurse for a minimum of 5 years in the same speciality; [2007, c. 316, §2 (NEW) .]
- C. Worked in a clinical health care field for a minimum of 10 years; and [2007, c. 316, §2 (NEW) .]
- D. Been approved by the board. [2007, c. 316, §2 (NEW) .]

The board shall adopt rules necessary to effectuate the purposes of this chapter relating to supervising nurse practitioners. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

[2007, c. 316, §2 (NEW) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1967, c. 263, §2 (AMD). 1973, c. 495, §§1,2 (AMD). 1973, c. 737, §1 (AMD). 1973, c. 788, §155 (AMD). 1977, c. 395, §§1, 2 (AMD). 1977, c. 497, §10 (AMD). 1977, c. 696, §244 (AMD). 1985, c. 724, §§2-4 (AMD). 1985, c. 748, §42 (AMD). 1985, c. 819, §§A27, 28 (AMD). 1987, c. 195, §3 (AMD). 1991, c. 421, §§2, 3 (AMD). 1991, c. 731, §§1, 2 (AMD). 1993, c. 600, §§A109-112 (AMD). 1995, c. 379, §§3-5 (AMD). 1995, c. 379, §11 (AFF). 1995, c. 625, §B11 (AMD). 1995, c. 670, §§C4-6 (AMD). 1995, c. 670, §D5 (AFF). RR 2001, c. 2, §A42 (COR). 2003, c. 204, §H1 (AMD). 2003, c. 510, §B10 (AMD). 2003, c. 689, §B6 (REV). 2007, c. 316, §§1, 2 (AMD). 2007, c. 498, §§1, 2 (AMD). 2007, c. 498, §3 (AFF). 2011, c. 257, §§19-21 (AMD). 2013, c. 540, §1 (AMD). 2013, c. 540, §2 (AFF).

§2103. EXCEPTIONS

This chapter does not prohibit:

- 1. Emergency.** The rendering of nursing assistance in the case of emergency;

[1985, c. 724, §5 (AMD) .]

- 2. Students.** The practice of nursing that is an integral part of a program by students enrolled in board-approved nursing education programs leading to initial licensure, or the practice of nursing by graduates of board-approved programs who are participating in a structured orientation program specifically designed for graduates of board-approved nursing programs as defined by the board, if they practice under on-site delegation and supervision of a registered professional nurse and only in the practice setting. The board may, by rule or by policy, define what constitutes supervision and a practice setting;

[2005, c. 163, §1 (AMD) .]

3. United States Government.

[1985, c. 724, §7 (RP) .]

4. Licensure in another state or jurisdiction. The practice of:

A. Nursing by a registered nurse or a licensed practical nurse currently licensed in another state or United States territory for a period of 90 days pending licensure in the State if the nurse, upon employment, has furnished the employer with satisfactory evidence of current licensure in another state or United States territory and the nurse furnishes a letter of authorization to the prospective employer of having submitted proper application and fees to the board for licensure prior to employment; [2003, c. 204, Pt. H, §2 (AMD) .]

B. A currently licensed nurse of another United States jurisdiction or foreign country who is providing educational programs or consultative services within this State for a period not to exceed a total of 21 days per year; [1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §113 (AMD) .]

C. A currently licensed nurse of another state who is transporting patients into, out of or through this State. The exemption is limited to a period not to exceed 48 hours for each transport; [2003, c. 204, Pt. H, §2 (AMD) .]

D. Nursing in this State by a currently licensed nurse whose employment was contracted outside this State but requires the nurse to accompany and care for the patient while in this State. This practice is limited to the particular patient to 3 months within one year and is at the discretion of the board; or [1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §113 (AMD) .]

E. Nursing by a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse currently licensed in a jurisdiction outside the United States or its territories for a period not to exceed 90 days pending receipt of a United States social security number as long as all other requirements for licensure have been submitted and verified and the registered or licensed nurse has furnished upon employment satisfactory evidence of current licensure in another jurisdiction and the nurse furnishes a letter of authorization to the prospective employer of having submitted proper application and fees to the board for licensure prior to employment; [2003, c. 204, Pt. H, §2 (NEW) .]

[2003, c. 204, Pt. H, §2 (AMD) .]

5. Practice of practical nursing.

[1967, c. 263, §4 (RP) .]

6. Nursing services; practice of religious principles. Nursing services performed in accordance with the practice of the religious principles or tenets of a church or denomination that relies upon prayer or spiritual means alone for healing; or

[2003, c. 204, Pt. H, §3 (AMD) .]

7. Nursing services by successful candidates of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, Inc.'s National Council Licensure Examination pending receipt of United States social security number.

The practice of nursing for a period not to exceed 90 days by an applicant for licensure as a registered professional nurse or practical nurse who has passed the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, Inc.'s National Council Licensure Examination and has met all requirements for licensure except obtaining a United States social security number, as required by Title 36, section 175.

[2005, c. 163, §2 (AMD) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1967, c. 263, §§3,4 (AMD). 1985, c. 724, §§5-9 (AMD). 1993, c. 600, §A113 (AMD). 1999, c. 386, §H1 (AMD). 2001, c. 260, §D1 (AMD). 2003, c. 204, §§H2-4 (AMD). 2005, c. 163, §§1,2 (AMD).

§2104. EDUCATION PROGRAMS

1. Application for approval. An institution desiring to conduct a nursing education program to prepare professional or practical nurses must apply to the board and submit evidence that:

- A. It is prepared to carry out the prescribed professional nursing curriculum or the prescribed curriculum for practical nursing, as the case may be; and
- B. It is prepared to meet other standards as established by this chapter and by the board. [1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §114 (AMD).]

[1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §114 (AMD) .]

2. Survey. A survey of the institution and its entire nursing education program must be made by either or both the executive director or other authorized appointee of the board, who shall submit a written report of the survey to the board. If, in the opinion of the board, the requirements for an approved nursing education program are met, the institution must be approved as a nursing education program for professional or practical nurses.

From time to time as determined necessary by the board, it is the duty of the board, through its executive director or other authorized representative of the board, to survey all nursing education programs in the State. Written reports of the surveys must be submitted to the board. If the board determines that an approved nursing education program is not maintaining the standards required by statute and by the board, notice in writing specifying the defect or defects must be immediately given to the institution conducting the program. If a program fails to correct these conditions to the satisfaction of the board within a reasonable time, the board shall take appropriate action pursuant to section 2153.

[1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §114 (AMD) .]

3. In-service training. Nothing in this chapter applies to in-service teaching or training programs for paramedical personnel.

4. Approval and monitoring of nursing assistant training curriculum and faculty. An educational institution or health care facility desiring to conduct an educational program for nursing assistants to prepare individuals for a certificate of training and subsequent listing on the Maine Registry of Certified Nursing Assistants and Direct Care Workers must apply to the Department of Health and Human Services and submit evidence:

- A. That it is prepared to carry out the curriculum for nursing assistants as prescribed by the board; [1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §114 (AMD).]
- B. That it is prepared to meet those standards established by the board; [1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §114 (AMD).]
- C. That it is prepared to meet those standards for educational programming and faculty as established by the Department of Health and Human Services; and [2009, c. 628, §3 (AMD).]
- D. With respect to an application by a health care facility, that an educational institution cannot provide a nursing assistant training program within 30 days of the application date. [1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §114 (AMD).]

The Department of Health and Human Services shall issue a notice of approval to an educational institution or health care facility that meets the requirements of this subsection.

[2011, c. 257, §22 (AMD) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1985, c. 724, §10 (AMD). 1987, c. 195, §4 (AMD). 1989, c. 700, §A145 (AMD). 1991, c. 421, §4 (AMD). 1993, c. 600, §A114 (AMD). 2009, c. 628, §3 (AMD). 2011, c. 257, §22 (AMD).

§2104-A. NURSE ORIENTATION IN INSTITUTIONS

A nurse who is employed in a hospital or nursing home and involved in direct patient care shall, at the beginning of the nurse's employment, participate in an individualized controlled learning experience adjusted for competency based upon practice standards and protocols. Each hospital or nursing home shall develop a plan with the employee for compliance with this section, which must contain a mutually agreed upon completion date. A copy of the plan must be made a part of the nurse's personnel file. The staffing plan for the hospital or nursing home must reflect current trainee competence. [1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §115 (AMD) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1989, c. 579, §7 (NEW). 1993, c. 600, §A115 (AMD).

§2105. DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

1973, c. 303, §3 (AMD). 1977, c. 694, §590 (AMD). 1983, c. 378, §20 (RP).

§2105-A. DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

1. Disciplinary proceedings and sanctions.

[1985, c. 724, §11 (RP) .]

1-A. Disciplinary proceedings and sanctions. The board shall investigate a complaint, on its own motion or upon receipt of a written complaint filed with the board, regarding noncompliance with or violation of this chapter or of rules adopted by the board. Investigation may include a hearing before the board to determine whether grounds exist for suspension, revocation or denial of a license, or as otherwise considered necessary to the fulfillment of its responsibilities under this chapter. The board may subpoena witnesses, records and documents, including records and documents maintained by a health care facility, in an investigation or hearing it conducts.

The board shall notify the licensee of the content of a complaint filed against the licensee as soon as possible, but, absent unusual circumstances justifying the delay, not later than 60 days from receipt of this information. The licensee shall respond within 30 days. The board shall share the licensee's response with the complainant, unless the board determines that it would be detrimental to the health of the complainant to obtain the response. If the licensee's response to the complaint satisfies the board that the complaint does not merit further investigation or action, the matter may be dismissed, with notice of the dismissal to the complainant, if any.

If, in the opinion of the board, the factual basis of the complaint is or may be true, and the complaint is of sufficient gravity to warrant further action, the board may request an informal conference with the licensee. The board shall provide the licensee with adequate notice of the conference and of the issues to be discussed. The complainant may attend the conference and may be accompanied by up to 2 individuals, including legal counsel. The conference must be conducted in executive session of the board or its subcommittee, pursuant to

Title 1, section 405, unless otherwise requested by the licensee. Before the board or its subcommittee decides what action to take at the conference or as a result of the conference, the board or its subcommittee shall give the complainant a reasonable opportunity to speak. Statements made at the conference may not be introduced at a subsequent formal hearing unless all parties consent.

When a complaint has been filed against a licensee and the licensee moves or has moved to another state, the board may report to the appropriate licensing board in that state the complaint that has been filed, other complaints in the licensee's record on which action was taken and disciplinary actions of the board with respect to that licensee.

When an individual applies for a license under this chapter, the board may investigate the professional record of that individual, including professional records that the individual may have as a licensee in other states. The board may deny a license or authorize a restricted license based on the record of the applicant in other states.

If the board or its subcommittee finds that the factual basis of the complaint is true and is of sufficient gravity to warrant further action, the board or its subcommittee may take any of the following actions the board or its subcommittee considers appropriate:

- A. Warn, censure or reprimand; [1985, c. 724, §12 (NEW).]
- B. With the consent of the licensee, enter into a consent agreement that fixes the period and terms of probation best adapted to protect the public health and safety and to rehabilitate or educate the licensee. A consent agreement may be used to terminate a complaint investigation, if entered into by the board, the licensee and the Attorney General's office; [1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §116 (AMD).]
- C. In consideration for acceptance of a voluntary surrender of the license, negotiate stipulations, including terms and conditions for reinstatement that ensure protection of the public health and safety and serve to rehabilitate or educate the licensee. These stipulations may be set forth only in a consent agreement signed by the board, the licensee and the Attorney General's office; [1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §116 (AMD).]
- D. If the board or its subcommittee concludes that modification or nonrenewal of the license is in order, hold an adjudicatory hearing in accordance with the provisions of Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 4; or [2013, c. 23, §1 (AMD).]
- E. If the board or its subcommittee concludes that suspension or revocation of the license is in order, file a complaint in the District Court in accordance with Title 4, chapter 5. [2001, c. 260, Pt. D, §2 (AMD).]

[2013, c. 23, §1 (AMD) .]

2. Grounds for discipline. The board may suspend or revoke a license pursuant to Title 5, section 10004. The following are grounds for an action to refuse to issue, modify, suspend, revoke or refuse to renew the license of an individual licensed under this chapter:

- A. The practice of fraud or deceit in obtaining a license under this chapter or in connection with service rendered within the scope of the license issued; [1983, c. 378, §21 (NEW).]
- B. Misuse of alcohol, drugs or other substances that has resulted or may result in the licensee performing services in a manner that endangers the health or safety of patients; [2013, c. 105, §5 (AMD).]
- C. A professional diagnosis of a mental or physical condition that has resulted or is foreseeably likely to result in the licensee performing the licensee's duties in a manner that endangers the health or safety of the licensee's patients; [1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §116 (AMD).]
- D. Aiding or abetting the practice of nursing by an individual not licensed under this chapter and who claims to be legally licensed; [1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §116 (AMD).]

E. Incompetence in the practice for which the licensee is licensed. A licensee is considered incompetent in the practice if the licensee has:

- (1) Engaged in conduct that evidences a lack of ability or fitness to discharge the duty owed by the licensee to a client or patient or the general public; or
- (2) Engaged in conduct that evidences a lack of knowledge or inability to apply principles or skills to carry out the practice for which the licensee is licensed; [1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §116 (AMD) .]

F. Unprofessional conduct. A licensee is considered to have engaged in unprofessional conduct if the licensee violates a standard of professional behavior that has been established in the practice for which the licensee is licensed; [1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §116 (AMD) .]

G. Subject to the limitations of Title 5, chapter 341, conviction of a crime that involves dishonesty or false statement or that relates directly to the practice for which the licensee is licensed or conviction of a crime for which incarceration for one year or more may be imposed; [1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §116 (AMD) .]

H. A violation of this chapter or a rule adopted by the board; [2015, c. 488, §10 (AMD) .]

I. Engaging in false, misleading or deceptive advertising; or [2015, c. 488, §11 (AMD) .]

J. Failure to comply with the requirements of Title 22, section 7253. [2015, c. 488, §12 (NEW) .]

[2015, c. 488, §§10-12 (AMD) .]

3. Confidentiality of information. Reports, information or records provided to the board by a health care facility pursuant to this chapter are confidential insofar as the reports, information or records identify or permit identification of a patient, except that the board may disclose confidential information:

- A. In an adjudicatory hearing or informal conference before the board or in a subsequent formal proceeding to which the information is relevant; and [1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §116 (AMD) .]
- B. In a consent agreement or other written settlement when the information constitutes or pertains to the basis of board action. [1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §116 (AMD) .]

A copy of a report, information or record received by the board under this subsection must be provided to the licensee.

[1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §116 (AMD) .]

4. Authority to request mental and physical examinations. For the purposes of this section, by application for and acceptance of a license to practice, a nurse is considered to have given consent to a mental or physical examination when directed by the board. The board may direct a nurse to submit to an examination whenever the board determines the nurse may be suffering from a mental illness that may be interfering with the competent practice of nursing or from the use of intoxicants or drugs to an extent that they are preventing the nurse from practicing nursing competently and with safety to patients. A nurse examined pursuant to an order of the board may not prevent the testimony of the examining individual or prevent the acceptance into evidence of the report of an examining individual in a proceeding under subsection 1-A. Failure to comply with an order of the board to submit to a mental or physical examination results in the immediate suspension of the license of the nurse by order of the District Court until the nurse submits to the examination.

[2009, c. 47, §2 (NEW) .]

5. Nurse health program. The board may establish protocols for the operation of a professional review committee as defined in Title 24, section 2502, subsection 4-A. The protocols must include the committee's reporting information the board considers appropriate regarding reports received, contracts or investigations

made and the disposition of each report, as long as the committee is not required to disclose any personally identifiable information. The protocols may not prohibit an impaired nurse from seeking alternative forms of treatment.

The board may contract with other agencies, individuals, firms or associations for the conduct and operation of a nurse health program operated by a professional review committee as that term is defined in Title 24, section 2502, subsection 4-A.

[2009, c. 47, §3 (NEW) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1983, c. 378, §21 (NEW). 1983, c. 769, §§1,2 (AMD). 1985, c. 724, §§11,12 (AMD). 1993, c. 600, §A116 (AMD). 1999, c. 547, §B62 (AMD). 1999, c. 547, §B80 (AFF). 2001, c. 260, §D2 (AMD). 2009, c. 47, §§2, 3 (AMD). 2013, c. 23, §1 (AMD). 2013, c. 105, §5 (AMD). 2015, c. 488, §§10-12 (AMD).

§2106. CRIMINAL VIOLATIONS; PENALTIES

It is a crime for any person, including a corporation, or association or individual, to: [1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §117 (AMD).]

1. Fraudulent diploma or record. Sell or fraudulently obtain or furnish a nursing diploma, license, renewal or record or provide aid in doing so;

[1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §117 (AMD) .]

2. Fraudulent license. Practice nursing as defined by this chapter under cover of a diploma, license or record illegally or fraudulently obtained or signed or issued unlawfully or under fraudulent representation;

[1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §117 (AMD) .]

3. Practice without license. Practice professional nursing or practical nursing as defined by this chapter unless licensed to do so;

[1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §117 (AMD) .]

4. Implying license. Use in connection with the person's name a designation tending to imply that the person is a licensed registered nurse or a licensed practical nurse unless so licensed under this chapter;

[1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §117 (AMD) .]

5. License suspended or revoked. Practice professional nursing or practical nursing during the time the person's license issued under this chapter is suspended or revoked; or

[1991, c. 797, §15 (AMD) .]

6. Violation of chapter.

[2001, c. 421, Pt. B, §97 (RP); 2001, c. 421, Pt. C, §1 (AFF) .]

A person who violates this section commits a Class E crime. [1991, c. 797, §15 (RPR).]

The District Court has original and concurrent jurisdiction with the Superior Court over all prosecutions for violation of this chapter. All fines and forfeitures collected under this chapter must accrue to the county where the offense is prosecuted. It is necessary to prove in a prosecution or hearing under this section only a

single act prohibited by law or a single holding out or an attempt without proving a general course of conduct in order to constitute a violation. These crimes are prosecuted by the district attorney. [1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §117 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

1967, c. 263, §5 (AMD). 1973, c. 567, §20 (AMD). 1991, c. 797, §15 (AMD). 1993, c. 600, §A117 (AMD). 2001, c. 421, §B97 (AMD). 2001, c. 421, §C1 (AFF).

§2106-A. CIVIL VIOLATIONS; PENALTIES

A person who violates any provision of this chapter for which a penalty is not prescribed commits a civil violation for which a forfeiture of not more than \$1,000 may be adjudged. [2001, c. 421, Pt. B, §98 (NEW); 2001, c. 421, Pt. C, §1 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

2001, c. 421, §B98 (NEW). 2001, c. 421, §C1 (AFF).

§2107. INJUNCTIONS

The Superior Court has jurisdiction, upon information filed by the county attorney at the request of the board, to restrain or enjoin an individual from committing an act declared to be a misdemeanor by this chapter. If it is established that the defendant has been or is committing an act declared to be a misdemeanor by this chapter, the court shall enter a decree perpetually enjoining the defendant from further committing that act. In case of violation of an injunction issued under this section, the court may summarily try and punish the offender for contempt of court. Injunction proceedings are in addition to, and not in lieu of, all penalties and other remedies provided in this chapter. [1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §118 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

1993, c. 600, §A118 (AMD).

§2108. IMMUNITY

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

1971, c. 371, (NEW). 1975, c. 452, §3 (RP).

§2108-A. IMMUNITY

An individual or health care facility acting in good faith is immune from civil liability to the licensee or applicant for licensure for the following actions: [1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §119 (AMD).]

1. Making information available to the board. Making a report or other information available to the board under this chapter; and

[1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §119 (AMD) .]

2. Assisting the board. Assisting the board in carrying out its duties.

[1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §119 (AMD) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1983, c. 769, §3 (NEW). 1993, c. 600, §A119 (AMD).

§2109. CONFIDENTIALITY OF PERSONAL INFORMATION OF APPLICANT OR LICENSEE

For applications for licensure and for renewal of licensure submitted on or after July 1, 2004, an applicant or licensee shall provide the board with a current professional address and telephone number, which is the public contact address, and a personal residence address and telephone number. An applicant's or licensee's personal residence address and telephone number, and e-mail address if provided by the applicant, are confidential information and may not be disclosed except as permitted by this section or as required by law unless the personal residence address, telephone number and e-mail address have been provided as the public contact address. Personal health information submitted as part of any application is confidential information and may not be disclosed except as permitted or required by law. [2003, c. 64, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

2003, c. 64, §1 (NEW).

§2110. EXPEDITED PARTNER THERAPY

An individual licensed under this chapter may not be disciplined for providing expedited partner therapy in accordance with the provisions of Title 22, chapter 251, subchapter 3, article 5. [2009, c. 533, §2 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

2009, c. 533, §2 (NEW).

§2111. CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD INFORMATION; FEES

1. Background check. The board shall request a background check for each person who submits an application for initial licensure or licensure by endorsement under this chapter, including an application for multistate licensure under subchapter 2-A. The background check must include criminal history record information obtained from the Maine Criminal Justice Information System and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The following provisions apply.

A. The criminal history record information obtained from the Maine Criminal Justice Information System must include a record of public criminal history record information as defined in Title 16, section 703, subsection 8. [2017, c. 258, Pt. B, §5 (NEW).]

B. The criminal history record information obtained from the Federal Bureau of Investigation must include other state and national criminal history record information. [2017, c. 258, Pt. B, §5 (NEW).]

C. An applicant shall submit to having fingerprints taken. The State Police, upon payment of a fee established by the board by rule by the applicant, shall take or cause to be taken the applicant's fingerprints and shall forward the fingerprints to the State Bureau of Identification so that the bureau can conduct state and national criminal history record checks. Except for the portion of the payment, if any, that constitutes the processing fee charged by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, all money received by the State Police for purposes of this paragraph must be paid over to the Treasurer of State. The money must be applied to the expenses of administration incurred by the Department of Public Safety. [2017, c. 258, Pt. B, §5 (NEW).]

D. The subject of a Federal Bureau of Investigation criminal history record check may obtain a copy of the criminal history record check by following the procedures outlined in 28 Code of Federal Regulations, Sections 16.32 and 16.33. The subject of a state criminal history record check may inspect and review the criminal history record information pursuant to Title 16, section 709. [2017, c. 258, Pt. B, §5 (NEW).]

E. State and federal criminal history record information may be used by the board for the purpose of screening each applicant. A board action against an applicant under this subsection is subject to the provisions of Title 5, chapter 341. [2017, c. 258, Pt. B, §5 (NEW).]

F. Information obtained pursuant to this subsection is confidential. The results of background checks received by the board are for official use only and may not be disseminated to the Interstate Commission of Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators established in section 2177 or to any other person or entity. [2017, c. 258, Pt. B, §5 (NEW).]

G. An applicant whose license has expired and who has not applied for renewal may request in writing that the State Bureau of Identification remove the applicant's fingerprints from the bureau's fingerprint file. In response to a written request, the bureau shall remove the applicant's fingerprints from the fingerprint file and provide written confirmation of that removal. [2017, c. 258, Pt. B, §5 (NEW).]

[2017, c. 258, Pt. B, §5 (NEW) .]

2. Rules. The board, following consultation with the State Bureau of Identification, shall adopt rules to implement this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. B, §5 (NEW) .]

SECTION HISTORY

2017, c. 258, Pt. B, §5 (NEW).

Subchapter 2: STATE BOARD OF NURSING

§2151. APPOINTMENT; TERM; REMOVAL

The State Board of Nursing, as established by Title 5, section 12004-A, subsection 25, consists of 9 members who are appointed by the Governor. A full-term appointment is for 4 years. Appointment of members must comply with Title 10, section 8009. Members of the board may be removed from office for cause by the Governor. [2007, c. 695, Pt. B, §9 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

1975, c. 258, §1 (RPR). 1975, c. 575, §28 (AMD). 1975, c. 771, §§350,351 (AMD). 1983, c. 176, §A12 (RPR). 1983, c. 812, §216 (AMD). 1985, c. 280, (AMD). 1985, c. 819, §§A29,30 (AMD). 1987, c. 195, §6 (AMD). 1989, c. 503, §B133 (AMD). 1993, c. 600, §A120 (AMD). 2007, c. 695, Pt. B, §9 (AMD).

§2152. QUALIFICATIONS

Each member of the board must be a citizen of the United States and a resident of this State for at least 3 consecutive years prior to appointment and shall file with the Secretary of State an oath of office before beginning service. The board is composed of: [1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §121 (AMD).]

1. Professional nurses. Six professional nurses, each of whom:

A. Must be a graduate of a state-approved educational program in professional nursing; [1985, c. 724, §13 (RPR).]

B. Holds a current state license to practice nursing; and [1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §121 (AMD).]

C. Has at least 3 years' experience in active practice immediately preceding appointment. [1985, c. 724, §13 (RPR).]

A minimum of 2 professional nurses must be active in an approved educational program in nursing. A minimum of 2 professional nurses must be active in nursing service. One of the professional nurse members of the board must be practicing long-term care nursing. One of the professional nurse members of the board must be an advanced practice registered nurse;

[1995, c. 379, §6 (AMD) .]

2. Licensed practical nurse. One licensed practical nurse who:

A. Must be a graduate of a state-approved educational program in practical nursing; [1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §121 (AMD).]

B. Holds a current state license to practice practical nursing; and [1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §121 (AMD) .]

C. Has at least 3 years' experience in active practice immediately preceding appointment; and [1985, c. 724, §13 (NEW).]

[1995, c. 379, §6 (AMD) .]

3. Public members. Two public members. A person may not qualify for appointment as a public member of the board if that person or a member of that person's immediate family is serving as:

A. A member of another state licensing board; [1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §121 (AMD).]

B. On the board of another health care agency; and [1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §121 (AMD).]

C. Engaged for compensation in the provision of health services or the provision of health research, instruction or insurance. [1985, c. 724, §13 (NEW).]

[1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §121 (AMD) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1975, c. 258, §2 (RPR). 1985, c. 724, §13 (RPR). 1993, c. 600, §A121 (AMD). 1995, c. 379, §6 (AMD).

§2153. POWERS AND DUTIES

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

1969, c. 552, §3 (AMD). 1971, c. 328, §2 (AMD). 1975, c. 575, §29 (AMD). 1977, c. 78, §179 (AMD). 1977, c. 604, §§20,21 (AMD). 1985, c. 724, §§14,15 (AMD). 1985, c. 748, §42 (AMD). 1985, c. 819, §§A31,32 (AMD). 1993, c. 600, §A122 (RP). 1993, c. 659, §§B8,9 (AMD). 1995, c. 462, §A89 (AFF).

§2153-A. POWERS AND DUTIES

The board shall hold annual meetings at which it shall elect from its members a chair and a secretary. It may hold such other meetings during the year as it determines necessary to transact its business. Special meetings must be called by the secretary on the request of 2 members. Five members of the board constitute a quorum at a meeting. [1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §123 (NEW).]

The board: [1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §123 (NEW).]

1. Bylaws. May adopt bylaws, rules for the transaction of the business of the board and the government and management of its affairs, not inconsistent with the laws of this State and of the United States, as it considers expedient;

[1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §123 (NEW) .]

2. Seal. May adopt a seal, which must be placed in the care of the executive director;

[1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §123 (NEW) .]

3. Curricula. May prescribe curricula and standards for educational programs preparing individuals for licensure under this chapter;

[1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §123 (NEW) .]

4. Surveys. May provide for surveys of the programs described in subsection 3 as it determines necessary;

[1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §123 (NEW) .]

5. Approval. May approve such nursing educational programs within the State as meet the requirements of this chapter and of the board;

[1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §123 (NEW) .]

6. Denial. May place nursing educational programs on probation, or warn, or deny, condition, withdraw or discontinue approval from nursing educational programs for failure to meet approved curricula or other standards as established by this chapter or pursuant to law;

[1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §123 (NEW) .]

7. Licenses. May examine, license and renew the licenses of qualified applicants;

[1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §123 (NEW) .]

8. Prosecution. May cause the prosecution and enjoinder of individuals violating this chapter and incur necessary expenses for those activities;

[1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §123 (NEW) .]

9. Records. May keep a record of all its proceedings;

[1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §123 (NEW) .]

10. Report. May make an annual report to the Commissioner of Professional and Financial Regulation for each fiscal year showing its receipts and disbursements and giving a full account of its activities during the previous 12-month period;

[1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §123 (NEW) .]

11. Budget. Shall submit to the Commissioner of Professional and Financial Regulation its budgetary requirements in the same manner as is provided in Title 5, section 1665, and the commissioner shall in turn transmit these requirements to the Bureau of the Budget without any revision, alteration or change unless

alterations are mutually agreed upon by the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation and the board or the board's designee. The budget submitted by the board to the commissioner must be sufficient to enable the board to comply with this subchapter;

[1995, c. 625, Pt. A, §37 (RPR) .]

12. Executive and assistant director. May appoint and employ qualified individuals, not members of the board, to serve as executive director and assistant executive director to the board, fix their compensation and define their duties;

[1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §123 (NEW) .]

13. Other employees. May employ other individuals as may be necessary to carry out the work of the board;

[2011, c. 1, Pt. AA, §2 (AMD) .]

14. Funds. May set aside and budget funds for, make contracts for, and procure goods or services the board determines necessary to accomplish its duties under this chapter; and

[2011, c. 1, Pt. AA, §3 (AMD) .]

15. Accept federal funds. Notwithstanding section 2156, may accept for the State any federal funds appropriated under any federal law relating to the authorized programs of the board. The board may undertake the necessary duties and tasks to implement federal law with respect to the authorized programs of the board.

[2011, c. 1, Pt. AA, §4 (NEW) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1993, c. 600, §A123 (NEW). 1995, c. 397, §§41,42 (AMD). 1995, c. 462, §§A56,57 (AMD). 1995, c. 625, §§A37,38 (AMD). 2005, c. 163, §3 (AMD). 2011, c. 1, Pt. AA, §§2-4 (AMD).

§2153-B. LIAISON; LIMITATIONS

The Commissioner of Professional and Financial Regulation shall act as a liaison between the board and the Governor. The commissioner may not exercise or interfere with the exercise of discretionary, regulatory or licensing authority granted by statute to the board. The commissioner may require the board to be accessible to the public for complaints and questions during regular business hours and to provide any information the commissioner requires in order to ensure that the board is operating administratively within the requirements of this chapter. [2005, c. 163, §4 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

2005, c. 163, §4 (NEW).

§2154. QUALIFICATIONS OF EXECUTIVE EMPLOYEE

The executive director must meet all the qualifications for professional nurse board members required in section 2152 and must, in addition, hold a master's degree in nursing. [1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §124 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

1975, c. 258, §3 (AMD). 1985, c. 724, §16 (AMD). 1993, c. 600, §A124 (AMD).

§2155. COMPENSATION

Eligible members of the board shall be compensated according to the provisions of Title 5, chapter 379. [1985, c. 724, §17 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

1979, c. 39, (RPR). 1983, c. 812, §217 (AMD). 1985, c. 724, §17 (AMD).

§2156. DISPOSITION OF FUNDS

All money received by the board under this chapter must be paid to the Treasurer of State. The Treasurer of State shall place the money to the credit of the State Board of Nursing Fund. All amounts paid into this fund must be held subject to the order of the board to be used only for the expenses incurred in the performance of the purpose of this chapter and the duties imposed by it as well as the promotion of nursing education and standards of nursing care in this State. [1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §125 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

1993, c. 600, §A125 (AMD).

§2157. NURSING EDUCATION MOBILITY ADVISORY GROUP

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

1989, c. 609, §2 (NEW). 1991, c. 622, §S32 (RP).

Subchapter 2-A: NURSE LICENSURE COMPACT**§2171. SHORT TITLE; FINDINGS AND DECLARATION OF PURPOSE --
ARTICLE 1**

1. Short title. This chapter may be known and cited as "the Nurse Licensure Compact," or "the compact."

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

2. Legislative intent. This compact is the Maine enactment of the Nurse Licensure Compact as revised by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing. The form, format and text of the compact have been changed minimally so as to conform to Maine statutory conventions. The changes are technical in nature, and it is the intent of the Legislature that this Act be interpreted as substantively the same as the Nurse Licensure Compact that is enacted by other party states.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

3. Findings. The party states find that:

A. The health and safety of the public are affected by the degree of compliance with and the effectiveness of enforcement activities related to state nurse licensure laws; [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

B. Violations of nurse licensure and other laws regulating the practice of nursing may result in injury or harm to the public; [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

C. The expanded mobility of nurses and the use of advanced communication technologies as part of our nation's health care delivery system require greater coordination and cooperation among states in the areas of nurse licensure and regulation; [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

D. New practice modalities and technology make compliance with individual state nurse licensure laws difficult and complex; [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

E. The system of duplicative licensure for nurses practicing in multiple states is cumbersome and redundant for both nurses and states; and [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

F. Uniformity of nurse licensure requirements throughout the states promotes public safety and public health benefits. [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

4. Purpose. The general purposes of this compact are to:

A. Facilitate the states' responsibility to protect the public's health and safety; [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

B. Ensure and encourage the cooperation of party states in the areas of nurse licensure and regulation; [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

C. Facilitate the exchange of information between party states in the areas of nurse regulation, investigation and adverse actions; [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

D. Promote compliance with the laws governing the practice of nursing in each jurisdiction; [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

E. Invest all party states with the authority to hold a nurse accountable for meeting all state practice laws in the state in which the patient is located at the time care is rendered through the mutual recognition of party state licenses; [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

F. Decrease redundancies in the consideration and issuance of nurse licenses; and [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

G. Provide opportunities for interstate practice by nurses who meet uniform licensure requirements. [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

SECTION HISTORY

2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).

§2172. DEFINITIONS -- ARTICLE 2

As used in this compact, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings. [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

1. Adverse action. "Adverse action" means an administrative, civil, equitable or criminal action permitted by a state's laws that is imposed by a licensing board or other authority against a nurse, including actions against an individual's license or multistate licensure privilege such as revocation, suspension, probation, monitoring of the licensee, limitation on the licensee's practice or any other encumbrance on licensure affecting a nurse's authorization to practice, including issuance of a cease and desist action.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

2. Alternative program. "Alternative program" means a nondisciplinary monitoring program approved by a licensing board.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

3. Commission. "Commission" means the Interstate Commission of Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators established in this compact.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

4. Coordinated licensure information system. "Coordinated licensure information system" means an integrated system for collecting, storing and sharing information on nurse licensure and enforcement activities related to nurse licensure laws that is administered by a nonprofit organization composed of and controlled by licensing boards.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

5. Current significant investigative information. "Current significant investigative information" means:

A. Investigative information that a licensing board, after a preliminary inquiry that includes notification and an opportunity for a nurse to respond, if required by state law, has reason to believe is not groundless and, if proved true, indicates more than a minor infraction; or [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

B. Investigative information that indicates that a nurse represents an immediate threat to public health and safety regardless of whether the nurse has been notified and had an opportunity to respond.
[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

6. Encumbrance. "Encumbrance" means a revocation or suspension of, or any limitation on, the full and unrestricted practice of nursing imposed by a licensing board.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

7. Head of the state licensing board. "Head of the state licensing board" means the executive director of the State Board of Nursing.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

8. Home state. "Home state" means the party state that is a nurse's primary state of residence.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

9. Licensing board. "Licensing board" means a party state's regulatory body responsible for issuing nurse licenses.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

10. Multistate license. "Multistate license" means a license to practice as a registered or a licensed practical or vocational nurse issued by a home state licensing board that authorizes the licensed nurse to practice in all party states under a multistate licensure privilege.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

11. Multistate licensure privilege. "Multistate licensure privilege" means a legal authorization associated with a multistate license permitting the practice of nursing as either a registered nurse or licensed practical or vocational nurse in a remote state.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

12. Nurse. "Nurse" means a registered nurse or licensed practical or vocational nurse, as those terms are defined by each party state's practice laws.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

13. Party state. "Party state" means a state that has adopted this compact.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

14. Prior compact. "Prior compact" means the prior nurse licensure compact that is superseded by this compact.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

15. Remote state. "Remote state" means a party state other than the home state.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

16. Single-state license. "Single-state license" means a nurse license issued by a party state that authorizes practice only within the issuing state and does not include a multistate licensure privilege to practice in any other party state.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

17. State. "State" means a state, territory or possession of the United States and the District of Columbia.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

18. State practice laws. "State practice laws" means a party state's laws, rules and regulations that govern the practice of nursing, define the scope of nursing practice and create the methods and grounds for imposing discipline. "State practice laws" does not include requirements necessary to obtain and retain a license, except for qualifications or requirements of the home state.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

SECTION HISTORY

2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).

§2173. GENERAL PROVISIONS AND JURISDICTION -- ARTICLE 3

1. Multistate license. A multistate license to practice registered or licensed practical or vocational nursing issued by a home state to a resident in that state is recognized by each party state as authorizing a nurse to practice as a registered nurse or as a licensed practical or vocational nurse, under a multistate licensure privilege, in each party state.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

2. Criminal history records. A party state shall implement procedures for considering the criminal history records of an applicant for an initial multistate license or licensure by endorsement. Such procedures must include the submission of fingerprints or other biometric-based information by an applicant for the purpose of obtaining an applicant's criminal history record information from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the agency responsible for retaining that state's criminal records.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

3. Requirements. Each party state shall require that an applicant to obtain or retain a multistate license in the home state:

- A. Meet the home state's qualifications for licensure or renewal of licensure, as well as all other applicable laws; [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]
- B. Have graduated or be eligible to graduate from a registered nurse or licensed practical or vocational nurse prelicensure education program approved by a licensing board or have graduated in a country other than the United States from a registered nurse or licensed practical or vocational nurse prelicensure education program that has been approved by an authorized accrediting body in the applicable country and has been verified by an independent credentials review agency to be comparable to a prelicensure education program approved by a licensing board; [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]
- C. Have, if a graduate of a prelicensure education program not taught in English or if English is not the applicant's native language, successfully passed an English proficiency examination that includes the components of reading, speaking, writing and listening; [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]
- D. Have successfully passed a National Council Licensure Examination for registered nurses or a National Council Licensure Examination for practical or vocational nurses given by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing or an exam given by a predecessor or successor organization, as applicable; [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]
- E. Be eligible for or hold an active, unencumbered nurse license; [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]
- F. Have submitted, in connection with an application for initial licensure or licensure by endorsement, fingerprints or other biometric-based information for the purpose of obtaining criminal history record information from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the agency responsible for retaining that state's criminal records; [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]
- G. Have not been convicted or found guilty, or have entered into an agreed disposition, of a felony offense under applicable state or federal criminal law; [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]
- H. Have not been convicted or found guilty, or have entered into an agreed disposition, of a misdemeanor offense related to the practice of nursing as determined on a case-by-case basis; [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]
- I. Be not currently enrolled in an alternative program; [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]
- J. Be subject to self-disclosure requirements regarding current participation in an alternative program; and [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]
- K. Have a valid social security number. [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

4. Adverse action. A party state is authorized, in accordance with existing state due process law, to take adverse action against a nurse's multistate licensure privilege such as revocation, suspension, probation or any other action that affects a nurse's authorization to practice under a multistate licensure privilege, including cease and desist actions. If a party state takes an action under this subsection, it shall promptly notify the administrator of the coordinated licensure information system. The administrator of the coordinated licensure information system shall promptly notify the home state of any action under this subsection by a remote state.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

5. Practice of nursing. A nurse practicing in a party state shall comply with the state practice laws of the state in which the client is located at the time service is provided. The practice of nursing is not limited to patient care, but includes all nursing practice as defined by the state practice laws of the party state in which

the client is located. The practice of nursing in a party state under a multistate licensure privilege subjects a nurse to the jurisdiction of the licensing board, the courts and the laws of the party state in which the client is located at the time service is provided.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

6. Single-state license. A person not residing in a party state may apply for a party state's single-state license as provided under the laws of each party state; however, a single-state license granted under this subsection is not recognized as granting the privilege to practice nursing in any other party state. Nothing in this compact affects the requirements established by a party state for the issuance of a single-state license.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

7. Licenses active on the effective date of compact. A nurse holding a home state multistate license on the effective date of this compact may retain and renew the multistate license issued by the nurse's then-current home state, except that:

A. A nurse who changes primary state of residence after the effective date of this compact must meet all applicable requirements under subsection 3 to obtain a multistate license from a new home state; and [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

B. A nurse who fails to satisfy the multistate licensure requirements in subsection 3 due to a disqualifying event occurring after the effective date of this compact is ineligible to retain or renew a multistate license, and the nurse's multistate license must be revoked or deactivated in accordance with applicable rules adopted by the commission. [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

SECTION HISTORY

2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).

§2174. APPLICATIONS FOR LICENSURE IN A PARTY STATE -- ARTICLE 4

1. Other licenses. Upon receiving an application for a multistate license, the licensing board in the issuing party state shall ascertain, through the coordinated licensure information system, whether the applicant has ever held, or is the holder of, a license issued by any other state, whether there are any encumbrances on a license or multistate licensure privilege held by the applicant, whether an adverse action has been taken against a license or multistate licensure privilege held by the applicant and whether the applicant is currently participating in an alternative program.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

2. Multistate license. A nurse may hold a multistate license issued by the home state in only one party state at a time.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

3. Change of residence. If a nurse changes primary state of residence by moving between 2 party states, the nurse shall apply for licensure in the new home state, and the multistate license issued by the prior home state must be deactivated in accordance with applicable rules adopted by the commission.

A. A nurse may apply for licensure under this compact in advance of a change in primary state of residence. [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

B. A multistate license may not be issued by the new home state under this subsection until the nurse provides satisfactory evidence of a change in primary state of residence to the new home state and satisfies all applicable requirements to obtain a multistate license from the new home state. [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

4. Change of residence to nonparty state. If a nurse changes primary state of residence by moving from a party state to a nonparty state, the multistate license issued by the prior home state converts to a single-state license, valid only in the former home state.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

SECTION HISTORY

2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).

§2175. ADDITIONAL AUTHORITIES INVESTED IN PARTY STATE LICENSING BOARDS -- ARTICLE 5

1. Authority. In addition to other powers conferred by state law, a licensing board has the authority to:

A. Take adverse action against a nurse's multistate licensure privilege to practice within that party state.

(1) Only the home state has the power to take adverse action against a nurse's license issued by the home state.

(2) For purposes of taking adverse action, the home state licensing board shall give the same priority and effect to a report of conduct received from a remote state as it would if such conduct had occurred within the home state. In so doing, the home state licensing board shall apply its own state laws to determine appropriate action; [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

B. Issue cease and desist orders or impose an encumbrance on a nurse's authority to practice within that party state; [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

C. Complete any pending investigation of a nurse who changes primary state of residence during the course of such investigation. The licensing board also has the authority to take appropriate action and shall promptly report the conclusions of an investigation to the administrator of the coordinated licensure information system. The administrator of the coordinated licensure information system shall promptly notify the new home state of any action under this paragraph; [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

D. Issue subpoenas for both hearings and investigations that require the attendance and testimony of witnesses as well as the production of evidence. A subpoena issued by a licensing board in a party state for the attendance and testimony of witnesses or the production of evidence from another party state may be enforced in the latter state by any court of competent jurisdiction, according to the practice and procedure of that court applicable to subpoenas issued in proceedings pending before it. The issuing authority shall pay any witness fees, travel expenses, mileage and other fees required by the service statutes of the state in which the witnesses or evidence is located; [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

E. Obtain and submit, for each nurse licensure applicant, fingerprints or other biometric-based information to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for criminal background checks, receive the results of the Federal Bureau of Investigation record search on criminal background checks and use the results in making licensure decisions; [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

F. If otherwise permitted by state law, recover from the affected nurse the costs of investigations and disposition of cases resulting from any adverse action taken against that nurse; and [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

G. Take adverse action based on the factual findings of the remote state, as long as the licensing board follows its own procedures for taking such adverse action. [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

2. Adverse action. If adverse action is taken by the home state against a nurse's multistate license, the nurse's multistate licensure privilege to practice in all other party states is deactivated until all encumbrances have been removed from the multistate license. A home state disciplinary order that imposes adverse action against a nurse's multistate license must include a statement that the nurse's multistate licensure privilege is deactivated in all party states during the pendency of the order.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

3. Alternative program. Nothing in this compact overrides a decision by a licensing board of a party state that participation in an alternative program may be used in lieu of adverse action. The home state licensing board shall deactivate the multistate licensure privilege under the multistate license of a nurse for the duration of the nurse's participation in an alternative program.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

SECTION HISTORY

2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).

§2176. COORDINATED LICENSURE INFORMATION SYSTEM AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION -- ARTICLE 6

1. Participation. A party state shall participate in the coordinated licensure information system for all licensed registered nurses and licensed practical or vocational nurses. The coordinated licensure information system includes information on the licensure and disciplinary history of each nurse, as submitted by party states, to assist in the coordination of nurse licensure and enforcement efforts.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

2. Procedures. The commission, in consultation with the administrator of the coordinated licensure information system, shall formulate necessary and proper procedures for the identification, collection and exchange of information under this compact.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

3. Reports. A licensing board shall promptly report to the coordinated licensure information system any adverse action, any current significant investigative information, denials of applications, including the reasons for such denials, and nurse participation in alternative programs known to the licensing board regardless of whether such participation is considered nonpublic or confidential under state law.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

4. Information restrictions. Current significant investigative information and participation in nonpublic or confidential alternative programs may be transmitted through the coordinated licensure information system only to party state licensing boards.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

5. Confidentiality. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a party state licensing board contributing information to the coordinated licensure information system may designate information that may not be shared with nonparty states or disclosed to other entities or individuals without the express permission of the contributing state licensing board.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

6. Personally identifiable information. Personally identifiable information obtained from the coordinated licensure information system by a party state licensing board may not be shared with nonparty states or disclosed to other entities or individuals except to the extent permitted by the laws of the party state contributing the information.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

7. Expungement. Information contributed to the coordinated licensure information system that is subsequently required to be expunged by the laws of the party state contributing that information must also be expunged from the coordinated licensure information system.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

8. Uniform data set. The compact administrator of each party state shall furnish a uniform data set to the compact administrator of each other party state, which must include, at a minimum:

A. Identifying information; [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

B. Licensure data; [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

C. Information related to alternative program participation; and [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

D. Other information that may facilitate the administration of this compact, as determined by commission rules. [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

9. Investigative documents. The compact administrator of a party state shall provide all investigative documents and information requested by another party state.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

SECTION HISTORY

2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).

§2177. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INTERSTATE COMMISSION OF NURSE LICENSURE COMPACT ADMINISTRATORS -- ARTICLE 7

1. Commission established. The party states hereby create and establish a joint public entity known as the Interstate Commission of Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators.

A. The commission is an instrumentality of the party states. [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

B. Venue is proper, and judicial proceedings by or against the commission must be brought solely and exclusively in a court of competent jurisdiction where the principal office of the commission is located. The commission may waive venue and jurisdictional defenses to the extent it adopts or consents to participate in alternative dispute resolution proceedings. [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

C. Nothing in this compact may be construed to be a waiver of sovereign immunity. [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

2. Membership, voting and meetings. This subsection governs the membership, voting and meetings of the commission.

A. Each party state has and is limited to one administrator. The head of the state licensing board or the head of the state licensing board's designee is the administrator of this compact for each party state. An administrator may be removed or suspended from office as provided by the law of the state from which the administrator is appointed. Any vacancy occurring in the commission must be filled in accordance with the laws of the party state in which the vacancy exists. [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

B. Each administrator is entitled to one vote with regard to the promulgation of rules and creation of bylaws and must otherwise have an opportunity to participate in the business and affairs of the commission. An administrator shall vote in person or by such other means as provided in the bylaws. The bylaws may provide for an administrator's participation in meetings by telephone or other means of communication. [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

C. The commission shall meet at least once during each calendar year. Additional meetings must be held as set forth in the bylaws or rules of the commission. [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

D. All meetings must be open to the public, and public notice of meetings must be given in the same manner as required under the rule-making provisions in section 2178. [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

E. The commission may convene in a closed, nonpublic meeting if the commission must discuss:

- (1) Noncompliance of a party state with its obligations under this compact;
- (2) The employment, compensation, discipline or other personnel matters, practices or procedures related to specific employees or other matters related to the commission's internal personnel practices and procedures;
- (3) Current, threatened or reasonably anticipated litigation;
- (4) Negotiation of contracts for the purchase or sale of goods, services or real estate;
- (5) Accusing a person of a crime or formally censuring a person;
- (6) Disclosure of trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential;
- (7) Disclosure of information of a personal nature where disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (8) Disclosure of investigatory records compiled for law enforcement purposes;
- (9) Disclosure of information related to any reports prepared by or on behalf of the commission for the purpose of investigation of compliance with this compact; or
- (10) Matters specifically exempted from disclosure by federal or state statute. [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

F. If a meeting, or portion of a meeting, is closed pursuant to paragraph E, the commission's legal counsel or designee shall certify that the meeting may be closed and shall reference each relevant exempting provision. The commission shall keep minutes that fully and clearly describe all matters discussed in a meeting and shall provide a full and accurate summary of actions taken and the reasons for those actions, including a description of the views expressed. All documents considered in connection

with an action must be identified in the minutes. All minutes and documents of a closed meeting must remain under seal, subject to release by a majority vote of the commission or order of a court of competent jurisdiction. [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

3. Bylaws and rules. The commission shall, by a majority vote of the administrators, prescribe bylaws or rules to govern its conduct as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes and exercise the powers of this compact, including but not limited to:

A. Establishing the fiscal year of the commission; [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

B. Providing reasonable standards and procedures:

(1) For the establishment and meetings of other committees; and

(2) Governing any general or specific delegation of any authority or function of the commission; [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

C. Providing reasonable procedures for calling and conducting meetings of the commission, ensuring reasonable advance notice of all meetings and providing an opportunity for attendance of such meetings by interested parties, with enumerated exceptions designed to protect the public's interest, the privacy of individuals and proprietary information, including trade secrets. The commission may meet in closed session only after a majority of the administrators vote to close a meeting in whole or in part. As soon as practicable, the commission shall make public a copy of the vote to close the meeting revealing the vote of each administrator, with no proxy votes allowed; [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

D. Establishing the titles, duties and authority and reasonable procedures for the election of the officers of the commission; [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

E. Providing reasonable standards and procedures for the establishment of the personnel policies and programs of the commission. Notwithstanding any civil service or other similar laws of any party state, the bylaws exclusively govern the personnel policies and programs of the commission; and [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

F. Providing a mechanism for winding up the operations of the commission and the equitable disposition of any surplus funds that may exist after the termination of this compact after the payment or reserving of all of its debts and obligations. [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

4. Publishing. The commission shall publish its bylaws and rules, and any amendments thereto, in a convenient form on the publicly accessible website of the commission.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

5. Financial records. The commission shall maintain its financial records in accordance with the bylaws.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

6. Meetings. The commission shall meet and take such actions as are consistent with the provisions of this compact and the bylaws.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

7. Powers. The commission has the following powers:

- A. To promulgate uniform rules to facilitate and coordinate implementation and administration of this compact. The rules have the force and effect of law and are binding in all party states; [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]
- B. To bring and prosecute legal proceedings or actions in the name of the commission; however, the standing of any licensing board to sue or be sued under applicable law is not affected; [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]
- C. To purchase and maintain insurance and bonds; [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]
- D. To borrow, accept or contract for services of personnel, including, but not limited to, employees of a party state or nonprofit organizations; [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]
- E. To cooperate with other organizations that administer state compacts related to the regulation of nursing, including, but not limited to, sharing administrative or staff expenses, office space or other resources; [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]
- F. To hire employees, elect or appoint officers, fix compensation, define duties, grant appropriate authority to carry out the purposes of this compact and establish the commission's personnel policies and programs relating to conflicts of interest, qualifications of personnel and other related personnel matters; [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]
- G. To accept all appropriate donations, grants and gifts of money, equipment, supplies, materials and services and to receive, use and dispose of the same, as long as at all times the commission avoids any appearance of impropriety or conflict of interest; [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]
- H. To lease, purchase, accept appropriate gifts or donations of, or otherwise to own, hold, improve or use, any property, whether real, personal or mixed, as long as at all times the commission avoids any appearance of impropriety; [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]
- I. To sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange, abandon or otherwise dispose of any property, whether real, personal or mixed; [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]
- J. To establish a budget and make expenditures; [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]
- K. To borrow money; [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]
- L. To appoint committees, including advisory committees composed of administrators, state nursing regulators, state legislators or their representatives, consumer representatives and other interested persons; [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]
- M. To provide and receive information from, and to cooperate with, law enforcement agencies; [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]
- N. To adopt and use an official seal; and [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]
- O. To perform such other functions as may be necessary or appropriate to achieve the purposes of this compact consistent with the state regulation of nurse licensure and practice. [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

8. Financing of commission. This subsection governs the financial operations of the commission.

- A. The commission shall pay, or provide for the payment of, the reasonable expenses of its establishment, organization and ongoing activities. [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]
- B. The commission may levy on and collect an annual assessment from each party state to cover the cost of its operations, activities and staff in its annual budget as approved each year. The aggregate annual assessment amount, if any, must be allocated based upon a formula to be determined by the commission, which shall promulgate a rule that is binding upon all party states. [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

C. The commission may not incur obligations of any kind prior to securing the funds adequate to those obligations; nor may the commission pledge the credit of any of the party states except by and with the authority of that party state. [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

D. The commission shall keep accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements. The receipts and disbursements of the commission are subject to the audit and accounting procedures established under its bylaws. However, all receipts and disbursements of funds handled by the commission must be audited yearly by a certified or licensed public accountant, and the report of the audit must be included in and become part of the annual report of the commission. [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

9. Qualified immunity; defense and indemnification. This subsection governs immunity provisions and defense and indemnification requirements of the commission.

A. An administrator, officer, executive director, employee or representative of the commission is immune from suit and liability, either personally or in that person's official capacity, for any claim for damage to or loss of property or personal injury or other civil liability caused by or arising out of any actual or alleged act, error or omission that occurred or that the person against whom the claim is made had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of commission employment, duties or responsibilities, except that nothing in this paragraph may be construed to protect any person from suit or liability for any damage, loss, injury or liability caused by the intentional, willful or wanton misconduct of that person. [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

B. The commission shall defend an administrator, officer, executive director, employee or representative of the commission in any civil action seeking to impose liability arising out of any actual or alleged act, error or omission that occurred within the scope of commission employment, duties or responsibilities, or that the person against whom the claim is made had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of commission employment, duties or responsibilities, as long as the actual or alleged act, error or omission did not result from that person's intentional, willful or wanton misconduct. Nothing in this paragraph may be construed to prohibit that person from retaining counsel. [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

C. The commission shall indemnify and hold harmless an administrator, officer, executive director, employee or representative of the commission for the amount of any settlement or judgment obtained against that person arising out of any actual or alleged act, error or omission that occurred within the scope of commission employment, duties or responsibilities, or that the person had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of commission employment, duties or responsibilities, as long as the actual or alleged act, error or omission did not result from the intentional, willful or wanton misconduct of that person. [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

SECTION HISTORY

2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).

§2178. RULEMAKING -- ARTICLE 8

1. Rule-making powers. The commission shall exercise its rule-making powers pursuant to the criteria set forth in this section and the rules adopted under this section. Rules and amendments to rules become binding as of the date specified in each rule or amendment and have the same force and effect as provisions of this compact.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

2. Adoption. Rules or amendments to rules must be adopted at a regular or special meeting of the commission.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

3. Notice publication. Prior to promulgation and adoption of a final rule or rules by the commission, and at least 60 days in advance of the meeting at which the rule will be considered and voted upon, the commission shall file a notice of proposed rulemaking:

A. On the publicly accessible website of the commission; and [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

B. On the publicly accessible website of each licensing board or in the publication in which each party state would otherwise publish proposed rules. [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

4. Notice contents. The notice of proposed rulemaking under subsection 3 must include:

A. The proposed time, date and location of the meeting in which the rule will be considered and voted upon; [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

B. The text of the proposed rule or amendment and the reason for the proposed rule or amendment; [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

C. A request for comments on the proposed rule from any interested person; and [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

D. The manner in which an interested person may submit notice to the commission of the intention to attend the public hearing and any written comments. [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

5. Materials submission. Prior to adoption of a proposed rule, the commission shall allow any interested person to submit written data, facts, opinions and arguments, which must be made available to the public.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

6. Public hearing opportunity. The commission shall grant an opportunity for a public hearing before it adopts a rule or amendment.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

7. Public hearing procedure. The commission shall publish the place, time and date of the scheduled public hearing.

A. A public hearing must be conducted in a manner providing each person who wishes to comment a fair and reasonable opportunity to comment orally or in writing. All public hearings must be recorded, and a copy must be made available upon request. [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

B. Nothing in this section may be construed as requiring a separate public hearing on each rule. Rules may be grouped for the convenience of the commission at public hearings required by this section. [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

8. Attendance. If no one appears at the public hearing, the commission may proceed with promulgation of the proposed rule.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

9. Consideration of comments. Following the scheduled public hearing date, or by the close of business on a scheduled hearing date if the hearing was not held, the commission shall consider all written and oral comments received.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

10. Final action. The commission shall, by majority vote of all administrators, take final action on a proposed rule and determine the effective date of the rule, if any, based on the rule-making record and the full text of the rule.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

11. Emergency rulemaking. Upon determination that an emergency exists, the commission may consider and adopt an emergency rule without prior notice, opportunity for comment or public hearing, in which case the usual rule-making procedures provided in this compact and in this section must be retroactively applied to the rule as soon as reasonably possible and in no event later than 90 days after the effective date of the rule. For the purposes of this subsection, an emergency rule is one that must be adopted immediately in order to:

A. Meet an imminent threat to public health, safety or welfare; [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

B. Prevent a loss of commission or party state funds; or [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

C. Meet a deadline for the promulgation of an administrative rule that is required by federal law or rule. [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

12. Revisions. The commission may direct revisions to a previously adopted rule or amendment for purposes of correcting typographical errors, errors in format, errors in consistency or grammatical errors. Public notice of any revisions must be posted on the publicly accessible website of the commission. The revision is subject to challenge by any person for a period of 30 days after posting. The revision may be challenged only on grounds that the revision results in a material change to a rule. A challenge must be made in writing and delivered to the commission prior to the end of the notice period. If no challenge is made, the revision takes effect without further action. If the revision is challenged, the revision may not take effect without the approval of the commission.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

SECTION HISTORY

2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .

§2179. OVERSIGHT, DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND ENFORCEMENT -- ARTICLE 9

1. Oversight. This subsection governs enforcement and proceedings under the compact.

A. Each party state shall enforce this compact and take all actions necessary and appropriate to effectuate this compact's purposes and intent. [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

B. The commission is entitled to receive service of process in any proceeding that may affect the powers, responsibilities or actions of the commission and has standing to intervene in such a proceeding for all purposes. Failure to provide service of process in a proceeding to the commission renders a judgment or order void as to the commission, this compact or promulgated rules. [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

2. Default, technical assistance and termination. This subsection governs default, technical assistance and termination under the compact.

A. If the commission determines that a party state has defaulted in the performance of its obligations or responsibilities under this compact or the promulgated rules, the commission shall:

- (1) Provide written notice to the defaulting state and other party states of the nature of the default, the proposed means of curing the default or any other action to be taken by the commission; and
- (2) Provide remedial training and specific technical assistance regarding the default. [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

B. If a party state in default fails to cure the default, the defaulting state's membership in this compact may be terminated upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the administrators, and all rights, privileges and benefits conferred by this compact may be terminated on the effective date of termination. A cure of the default does not relieve the offending state of obligations or liabilities incurred during the period of default. [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

C. Termination of membership in this compact may be imposed only after all other means of securing compliance have been exhausted. Notice of intent to suspend or terminate must be given by the commission to the governor of the defaulting state and to the executive officer of the defaulting state's licensing board and each of the party states. [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

D. A party state whose membership in this compact has been terminated is responsible for all assessments, obligations and liabilities incurred through the effective date of termination, including obligations that extend beyond the effective date of termination. [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

E. The commission may not bear any costs related to a party state that is found to be in default or whose membership in this compact has been terminated unless agreed upon in writing between the commission and the defaulting state. [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

F. The defaulting state may appeal the action of the commission by petitioning the United States District Court for the District of Columbia or the federal district in which the commission has its principal offices. The prevailing party must be awarded all costs of such litigation, including reasonable attorney's fees. [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

3. Dispute resolution. This subsection governs dispute resolution under the compact.

A. Upon request by a party state, the commission shall attempt to resolve disputes related to the compact that arise among party states and between party and nonparty states. [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

B. The commission shall promulgate a rule providing for both mediation and binding dispute resolution for disputes, as appropriate. [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

C. In the event the commission cannot resolve disputes among party states arising under this compact:

(1) The party states may submit the issues in dispute to an arbitration panel composed of individuals appointed by the compact administrator in each of the affected party states and an individual mutually agreed upon by the compact administrators of all the party states involved in the dispute; and

(2) The decision of a majority of the arbitrators under this paragraph is final and binding. [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

4. Enforcement. This subsection governs enforcement under the compact.

A. The commission, in the reasonable exercise of its discretion, shall enforce the provisions and rules of this compact. [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

B. By majority vote, the commission may initiate legal action in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia or the federal district in which the commission has its principal offices against a party state that is in default to enforce compliance with the provisions of this compact and its promulgated rules and bylaws. The relief sought may include both injunctive relief and damages. In the event judicial enforcement is necessary, the prevailing party must be awarded all costs of such litigation, including reasonable attorney's fees. [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

C. The remedies provided in this section are not the exclusive remedies of the commission. The commission may pursue any other remedies available under federal or state law. [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

SECTION HISTORY

2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).

§2180. EFFECTIVE DATE, WITHDRAWAL AND AMENDMENT -- ARTICLE 10

1. Effective date. This compact becomes effective and binding on the date of legislative enactment of this compact into law by no fewer than 26 states or December 31, 2018, whichever is earlier. All party states to this compact that were parties to the prior compact are deemed to have withdrawn from the prior compact within 6 months after the effective date of this compact.

[2017, c. 475, Pt. B, §1 (AMD) .]

2. Prior compact. Each party state shall continue to recognize a multistate licensure privilege of a nurse to practice in that party state issued under the prior compact until that party state has withdrawn from the prior compact.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

3. Withdrawal. A party state may withdraw from this compact by enacting a statute repealing the same. A party state's withdrawal does not take effect until 6 months after enactment of the repealing statute.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

4. Continuing requirements. A party state's withdrawal or termination does not affect the continuing requirement of the withdrawing or terminated state's licensing board to report adverse actions and significant investigations occurring prior to the effective date of the withdrawal or termination.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

5. Agreements with nonparty states. Nothing contained in this compact may be construed to invalidate or prevent any nurse licensure agreement or other cooperative arrangement between a party state and a nonparty state that is made in accordance with the other provisions of this compact.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

6. Amendments to compact. This compact may be amended by a party state. An amendment to this compact does not become effective and binding upon the party states until it is enacted into the laws of all party states.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

7. Representative participation. Representatives of nonparty states to this compact must be invited to participate in the activities of the commission, on a nonvoting basis, prior to the adoption of this compact by all states.

[2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW) .]

SECTION HISTORY

2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW). 2017, c. 475, Pt. B, §1 (AMD).

§2181. CONSTRUCTION AND SEVERABILITY -- ARTICLE 11

This compact may be liberally construed so as to effectuate its purposes. The provisions of this compact are severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence or provision of this compact is declared to be contrary to the constitution of any party state or of the United States or if its applicability to any government, agency, person or circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this compact and its applicability to any government, agency, person or circumstance are not affected. If this compact is held to be contrary to the constitution of any party state, this compact remains in full force and effect as to the remaining party states and in full force and effect as to the party state affected as to all severable matters. [2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

2017, c. 258, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).

Subchapter 3: REGISTERED NURSES

§2201. QUALIFICATIONS

An applicant for a license to practice professional nursing shall submit to the board written evidence, verified by oath, that the applicant:

1. Character.

[1983, c. 378, §22 (RP) .]

2. High school.

[2003, c. 204, Pt. H, §5 (RP) .]

3. Professional school. Has completed a course of study of not less than 2 years in an approved program in professional nursing and holds a degree, diploma or certificate.

In case of transfer of a student from one approved school of nursing to another, the time allowance for previous preparation must be determined by the board, except that not less than one year must have been spent in the school from which the diploma is received. In case of transfer of a student because of closing of a school of nursing, the board shall determine the length of time required to be spent in the school of nursing granting the diploma.

[1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §126 (AMD) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1983, c. 378, §22 (AMD). 1985, c. 724, §18 (AMD). 1987, c. 402, §A169 (AMD). 1993, c. 600, §A126 (AMD). 2003, c. 204, §H5 (AMD).

§2201-A. QUALIFICATIONS FOR ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE

An applicant for approval to practice advanced practice registered nursing shall submit to the board written evidence verified by oath that the applicant: [1995, c. 379, §7 (NEW); 1995, c. 379, §11 (AFF).]

1. License. Holds a current license to practice as a registered professional nurse in this State;

[1995, c. 379, §7 (NEW); 1995, c. 379, §11 (AFF) .]

2. Education. Has successfully completed a formal education program that is acceptable to the board in an advanced nursing specialty area; and

[1995, c. 379, §7 (NEW); 1995, c. 379, §11 (AFF) .]

3. Credential. Holds a current certification credential for advanced nursing from a national certifying body whose certification program is acceptable to the board.

[1995, c. 379, §7 (NEW); 1995, c. 379, §11 (AFF) .]

A registered professional nurse who is approved by the board to practice in accordance with former section 2102, subsection 2, paragraph B on the effective date of this section is considered to have met the requirements of subsections 2 and 3. [1995, c. 379, §7 (NEW); 1995, c. 379, §11 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

1995, c. 379, §7 (NEW). 1995, c. 379, §11 (AFF).

§2202. LICENSES; EXAMINATION

The applicant is required to pass a written examination in subjects determined necessary by the board to ascertain the fitness of the applicant to practice professional nursing. If the applicant successfully passes the examination, the board shall issue to the applicant a license to practice professional nursing as a registered nurse, the license to be in force for a period of at least one year until the birth date of the licensee. The initial license is renewable as provided in section 2206. [1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §127 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

1985, c. 724, §19 (AMD). 1991, c. 153, §1 (AMD). 1991, c. 153, §5 (AFF). 1993, c. 600, §A127 (AMD).

§2202-A. CERTIFICATES; NURSING ASSISTANTS*(REPEALED)*

SECTION HISTORY

1987, c. 195, §5 (NEW). 1989, c. 700, §A146 (AMD). 1991, c. 421, §5 (RP).

§2202-B. CERTIFICATION FEE; DISPOSITION OF FEE; NURSING ASSISTANTS

1. Fees authorized. The Commissioner of Health and Human Services may assess fees for certification of nursing assistants, for the competency testing of nursing assistants and for validation of test results to determine eligibility for certification and charge fees for certificates issued and duplicated for out-of-state vocational reciprocity, renewal of certificates and replacement of certificates.

[2009, c. 628, §4 (AMD) .]

2. Amounts. Amounts of fees are as follows:

A. For competency testing, \$45, which must be included in the training course fee; [2009, c. 628, §4 (AMD) .]

B. For initial certificate, \$5; [1991, c. 528, Pt. III, §24 (NEW); 1991, c. 528, Pt. RRR, (AFF); 1991, c. 591, Pt. III, §24 (NEW).]

C. For replacement certificate, \$5; [1991, c. 528, Pt. III, §24 (NEW); 1991, c. 528, Pt. RRR, (AFF); 1991, c. 591, Pt. III, §24 (NEW).]

D. For letter of verification of completion of a certified nursing assistant program, \$20; [2009, c. 628, §4 (AMD) .]

E. For converted certificate, \$5; [1993, c. 435, §12 (AMD) .]

F. For renewal certificate, \$5; and [1993, c. 435, §12 (AMD) .]

G. For validation of test results, \$5. [1993, c. 435, §13 (NEW) .]

[2009, c. 628, §4 (AMD) .]

3. Accounting. The Commissioner of Health and Human Services shall:

A. Collect and account for testing and certification fees; and [1991, c. 528, Pt. III, §24 (NEW); 1991, c. 528, Pt. RRR, (AFF); 1991, c. 591, Pt. III, §24 (NEW) .]

B. Report and pay fees to the Treasurer of State to be credited to the General Fund. [1991, c. 528, Pt. III, §24 (NEW); 1991, c. 528, Pt. RRR, (AFF); 1991, c. 591, Pt. III, §24 (NEW) .]

[2009, c. 628, §4 (AMD) .]

4. Staff. The Commissioner of Health and Human Services shall employ staff necessary to carry out the requirements of this section.

[2009, c. 628, §4 (AMD) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1991, c. 528, §III24 (NEW). 1991, c. 528, §RRR (AFF). 1991, c. 591, §III24 (NEW). 1993, c. 435, §§11-13 (AMD). 2009, c. 628, §4 (AMD).

§2203. -- PLACE*(REPEALED)*

SECTION HISTORY

2005, c. 163, §5 (RP).

§2204. EXAMINATION; TIME

The board shall hold at least one examination annually at a place and at a time determined by the board. [1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §128 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

1993, c. 600, §A128 (AMD).

§2205. -- ENDORSEMENT*(REPEALED)*

SECTION HISTORY

1985, c. 361, §1 (RP).

§2205-A. LICENSURE OF PERSONS LICENSED BY ANOTHER JURISDICTION

The board may issue a license to practice professional nursing as a registered professional nurse under the following circumstances. [1985, c. 361, §2 (NEW).]

1. Applicants licensed by other states, United States territories and Canadian provinces. The board may issue a license without examination of the applicant by the board to an applicant licensed to practice by a state or territory of the United States or a province of Canada if the applicant:

A. Has graduated from an educational program approved by the official approving authority of a state or territory of the United States or a province of Canada, which at the time of graduation had standards considered by the board to be equivalent to those of Maine schools; [1985, c. 361, §2 (NEW).]

B. Has been duly licensed by examination by the nursing board of a state or territory of the United States or a province of Canada, provided that the examination is considered by the board to be equivalent in all essentials to Maine's examination and provided that the license of the applicant is in good standing and that there is no cause for suspension or revocation of that license. Acceptable examinations include the State Board Examination, State Board Test Pool Examination, the National Council Licensure Examination and, for a person licensed prior to December 31, 2006, the Canadian Nurses' Association Testing Service Examination; and [2005, c. 473, §1 (AMD).]

C. If licensed in the other jurisdiction by passing an examination in a language other than English, has passed the Test of English as a Foreign Language. The board shall provide information regarding the test to applicants who are required to take that test. [1985, c. 361, §2 (NEW).]

[2005, c. 473, §1 (AMD) .]

2. Applicants licensed by other jurisdictions. The board may issue a license to an applicant licensed to practice by a jurisdiction other than those listed in subsection 1, if the applicant:

A. Has graduated from an educational program approved by the official approving authority of a jurisdiction other than those listed in subsection 1, which at the time of graduation had standards considered by the board to be equivalent to those of Maine schools; [1985, c. 361, §2 (NEW).]

B. Has been duly licensed by examination by the nursing board of a jurisdiction other than those listed in subsection 1, provided that the examination is considered by the board to be equivalent in all essentials to Maine's examination and provided that the license of the applicant is in good standing and that there is no cause for suspension or revocation of that license; [1985, c. 361, §2 (NEW).]

C. Has passed the National Council Licensure Examination for registered nurses; and [1985, c. 361, §2 (NEW).]

D. If licensed in the other jurisdiction by passing an examination in a language other than English, has either passed the Test of English as a Foreign Language or fulfilled the requirements of paragraph C by passing a test given in English. [1985, c. 361, §2 (NEW).]

[1985, c. 361, §2 (NEW) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1985, c. 361, §2 (NEW). 2005, c. 473, §1 (AMD).

§2205-B. APPROVAL AS ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES

The board may grant approval to practice as an advanced practice registered nurse to a person who qualifies pursuant to section 2201-A. [1995, c. 379, §8 (NEW); 1995, c. 379, §11 (AFF).]

1. Temporary approval to practice. Temporary approval to practice as an advanced practice registered nurse may be granted by the board:

A. For a period of 90 days to an applicant who is currently approved to practice as an advanced practice registered nurse in another jurisdiction with requirements at least equivalent to those of this State; or [1995, c. 379, §8 (NEW); 1995, c. 379, §11 (AFF).]

B. For a period of 12 months to an applicant who meets the requirements of section 2201-A, subsections 1 and 2 and who qualifies to take and takes the next available certification examination. [1995, c. 379, §8 (NEW); 1995, c. 379, §11 (AFF).]

[1995, c. 379, §8 (NEW); 1995, c. 379, §11 (AFF) .]

2. Termination. The board may terminate a person's advanced practice registered nurse designation when the person no longer holds a current certification credential.

[1995, c. 379, §8 (NEW); 1995, c. 379, §11 (AFF) .]

3. Delegated performance of services.

[2009, c. 512, §1 (RP) .]

4. Supervision of support staff. A certified nurse practitioner may delegate to the employees or support staff of the certified nurse practitioner certain activities relating to advanced practice registered nursing carried out by custom and usage when the activities are under the control of the certified nurse practitioner. The certified nurse practitioner delegating these activities to such persons is legally liable for the activities of those persons, and any person in this relationship is considered the certified nurse practitioner's agent when performing such delegated activities.

[2007, c. 197, §1 (NEW) .]

5. Global signature authority of a certified nurse practitioner or certified nurse midwife. When a provision of law or rule requires a signature, certification, stamp, verification, affidavit or endorsement by a physician, that requirement may be fulfilled by a certified nurse practitioner or a certified nurse midwife. This subsection may not be construed to expand the scope of practice of a certified nurse practitioner or a certified nurse midwife.

[2009, c. 259, §1 (NEW) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1995, c. 379, §8 (NEW). 1995, c. 379, §11 (AFF). 2007, c. 197, §1 (AMD). 2009, c. 259, §1 (AMD). 2009, c. 512, §1 (AMD).

§2206. RENEWALS

The license of every registered nurse licensed under this chapter is renewable every 2 years, except as otherwise provided. At least 30 days before the date that the license expires, the board shall mail an application for renewal of license to each professional nurse who holds a valid license. The application must be mailed to the most recent address of that individual as it appears on the records of the board. That individual shall complete the renewal application and return it to the board with the renewal fee designated by the board, but not to exceed \$100, before the expiration date of the license. Upon receipt of the application and fee, the board shall verify the accuracy of the application and issue to the applicant a renewal of license for a period of 2 years, expiring on the anniversary of the applicant's birth. [1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §129 (AMD) .]

A registered nurse who fails to renew the license as provided may be reinstated by the board on satisfactory explanation for failure to renew the license and on payment of a reinstatement fee of \$10 in addition to the current renewal fee. [1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §129 (AMD) .]

An individual practicing professional nursing during the time the individual's license has lapsed is considered an illegal practitioner and is subject to the penalties provided for violations of this chapter. [1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §129 (AMD) .]

An individual who is not engaged in professional nursing in the State is not required to pay a renewal fee for as long as the individual does not practice but shall notify the board of inactive status in writing. Prior to resumption of the practice of professional nursing, that individual is required to notify the board and remit a renewal fee for the current period. [1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §129 (AMD) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1965, c. 206, §1 (AMD). 1969, c. 26, §§1,2 (AMD). 1975, c. 114, §§1,2 (AMD). 1983, c. 176, §A13 (RPR). 1985, c. 724, §§20,21 (AMD). 1989, c. 609, §§3,4 (AMD). 1991, c. 153, §2 (AMD). 1991, c. 153, §5 (AFF). 1993, c. 600, §A129 (AMD).

§2207. REGISTERED NURSE; FEES

Every applicant applying for a license to practice as a registered nurse shall pay a fee to the board as follows:

1. Examination. For examination, a fee not to exceed \$100 payable on application;

[1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §130 (AMD) .]

2. Reexamination. For reexamination, a fee determined by the board not to exceed \$100; and

[2005, c. 163, §6 (AMD) .]

3. Endorsement. For endorsement, a fee not to exceed \$100 payable on application.

[1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §130 (AMD) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1965, c. 206, §2 (AMD). 1973, c. 283, (AMD). 1975, c. 114, §3 (AMD).
1989, c. 609, §5 (AMD). 1993, c. 600, §A130 (AMD). 2005, c. 163, §6
(AMD).

§2208. TITLE AND ABBREVIATION

An individual who holds a current license to practice professional nursing in this State has the right to use the title "Registered Nurse" and the abbreviation "R.N." No other individual may assume the title or use the abbreviation or other words, letters, signs or devices to indicate that the individual using the same is a registered nurse. [1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §131 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

1985, c. 724, §22 (AMD). 1993, c. 600, §A131 (AMD).

§2209. REGISTRATION UNDER PRIOR LAW

An individual holding a license as a registered nurse in the State issued by the former Board of Registration of Nurses that is valid on September 12, 1959 is licensed as a registered nurse under this chapter, and the renewal of the licenses for those individuals must be effectuated under this section. [1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §132 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

1993, c. 600, §A132 (AMD).

§2210. REQUIREMENTS REGARDING PRESCRIPTION OF OPIOID MEDICATION

1. Limits on opioid medication prescribing. Except as provided in subsection 2, an individual licensed under this chapter whose scope of practice includes prescribing opioid medication may not prescribe:

A. To a patient any combination of opioid medication in an aggregate amount in excess of 100 morphine milligram equivalents of opioid medication per day; [2015, c. 488, §13 (NEW).]

B. To a patient who, on the effective date of this section, has an active prescription for opioid medication in excess of 100 morphine milligram equivalents of an opioid medication per day, an opioid medication in an amount that would cause that patient's total amount of opioid medication to exceed 300 morphine milligram equivalents of opioid medication per day; except that, on or after July 1, 2017, the aggregate amount of opioid medication prescribed may not be in excess of 100 morphine milligram equivalents of opioid medication per day; [2015, c. 488, §13 (NEW).]

C. On or after January 1, 2017, within a 30-day period, more than a 30-day supply of an opioid medication to a patient under treatment for chronic pain. "Chronic pain" has the same meaning as in Title 22, section 7246, subsection 1-C; or [2015, c. 488, §13 (NEW).]

D. On or after January 1, 2017, within a 7-day period, more than a 7-day supply of an opioid medication to a patient under treatment for acute pain unless the opioid product is labeled by the federal Food and Drug Administration to be dispensed only in a stock bottle that exceeds a 7-day supply as prescribed, in which case the amount dispensed may not exceed a 14-day supply. "Acute pain" has the same meaning as in Title 22, section 7246, subsection 1-A. [2017, c. 213, §12 (AMD).]

[2017, c. 213, §12 (AMD) .]

2. Exceptions. An individual licensed under this chapter whose scope of practice includes prescribing opioid medication is exempt from the limits on opioid medication prescribing established in subsection 1 only:

A. When prescribing opioid medication to a patient for:

- (1) Pain associated with active and aftercare cancer treatment;
- (2) Palliative care, as defined in Title 22, section 1726, subsection 1, paragraph A, in conjunction with a serious illness, as defined in Title 22, section 1726, subsection 1, paragraph B;
- (3) End-of-life and hospice care;
- (4) Medication-assisted treatment for substance use disorder; or
- (5) Other circumstances determined in rule by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to Title 22, section 7254, subsection 2; and [2015 , c. 488 , §13 (NEW) .]

B. When directly ordering or administering a benzodiazepine or opioid medication to a person in an emergency room setting, an inpatient hospital setting, a long-term care facility or a residential care facility or in connection with a surgical procedure.

As used in this paragraph, "administer" has the same meaning as in Title 22, section 7246, subsection 1-B. [2017 , c. 213 , §13 (AMD) .]

[2017 , c. 213 , §13 (AMD) .]

3. Electronic prescribing. An individual licensed under this chapter whose scope of practice includes prescribing opioid medication and who has the capability to electronically prescribe shall prescribe all opioid medication electronically by July 1, 2017. An individual who does not have the capability to electronically prescribe must request a waiver from this requirement from the Commissioner of Health and Human Services stating the reasons for the lack of capability, the availability of broadband infrastructure and a plan for developing the ability to electronically prescribe opioid medication. The commissioner may grant a waiver for circumstances in which exceptions are appropriate, including prescribing outside of the individual's usual place of business and technological failures.

[2015 , c. 488 , §13 (NEW) .]

4. Continuing education. By December 31, 2017, an individual licensed under this chapter must successfully complete 3 hours of continuing education every 2 years on the prescription of opioid medication as a condition of prescribing opioid medication. The board shall adopt rules to implement this subsection. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

[2015 , c. 488 , §13 (NEW) .]

5. Penalties. An individual who violates this section commits a civil violation for which a fine of \$250 per violation, not to exceed \$5,000 per calendar year, may be adjudged. The Department of Health and Human Services is responsible for the enforcement of this section.

[2015 , c. 488 , §13 (NEW) .]

6. Opioid medication policy. No later than January 1, 2018, a health care entity that includes an individual licensed under this chapter whose scope of practice includes prescribing opioid medication must have in place an opioid medication prescribing policy that applies to all prescribers of opioid medications

employed by the entity. The policy must include, but is not limited to, procedures and practices related to risk assessment, informed consent and counseling on the risk of opioid use. For the purposes of this subsection, "health care entity" has the same meaning as in Title 22, section 1718-B, subsection 1, paragraph B.

[2017, c. 186, §1 (NEW) .]

SECTION HISTORY

2015, c. 488, §13 (NEW). 2017, c. 186, §1 (AMD). 2017, c. 213, §§12, 13 (AMD).

§2211. NURSE ANESTHETIST; AUTHORITY

1. Definitions. For purposes of this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Critical access hospital" has the same meaning as in Title 22, section 7932, subsection 10. [2017, c. 188, §1 (NEW) .]

B. "Rural area" has the same meaning as in Title 22, section 5104, subsection 10. [2017, c. 188, §1 (NEW) .]

[2017, c. 188, §1 (NEW) .]

2. Authority generally. A certified registered nurse anesthetist is responsible and accountable to a licensed physician or dentist for aspects of anesthesia practice that require execution of the medical regimen as prescribed by that physician or dentist, except as provided in subsection 3.

[2017, c. 188, §1 (NEW) .]

3. Authority; critical access hospitals and rural hospitals. In a critical access hospital or in a hospital located in a rural area, a certified registered nurse anesthetist may, in accordance with the bylaws and policies of the facility in which the certified registered nurse anesthetist is practicing, formulate and implement a patient-specific plan for anesthesia care, which may include:

A. A preanesthetic assessment; [2017, c. 188, §1 (NEW) .]

B. Verification of informed consent; [2017, c. 188, §1 (NEW) .]

C. Adjustments and corrective actions as indicated; [2017, c. 188, §1 (NEW) .]

D. Ordering appropriate laboratory tests and diagnostic imaging tests in the preoperative period and immediate postoperative period; and [2017, c. 188, §1 (NEW) .]

E. Ordering and prescribing prescription drugs in the preoperative period and immediate postoperative period in accordance with this paragraph. For controlled substances listed in United States Drug Enforcement Administration Schedules III, IIIN, IV and V, a certified registered nurse anesthetist may prescribe drugs only:

(1) For a supply of not more than 4 days, with no prescription refills; and

(2) For an individual for whom the certified registered nurse anesthetist has, at the time of the prescription, established a client or patient record. [2017, c. 188, §1 (NEW) .]

[2017, c. 188, §1 (NEW) .]

4. Rules. The board shall adopt rules to implement this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

[2017, c. 188, §1 (NEW) .]

SECTION HISTORY

2017, c. 188, §1 (NEW).

§2212. DISPENSING OPIOID MEDICATION TO PATIENTS IN OPIOID TREATMENT PROGRAMS

A registered professional nurse and a certified nurse practitioner may dispense opioid medication for substance use disorder treatment purposes to patients within an opioid treatment program under the direction of the medical director of the opioid treatment program. [2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §125 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

2017, c. 305, §1 (NEW). 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §125 (AMD).

Subchapter 4: PRACTICAL NURSES

§2251. QUALIFICATIONS

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

1965, c. 206, §§3,4 (AMD). 1967, c. 263, §6 (AMD). 1971, c. 601, §§1,2 (AMD). 1983, c. 378, §23 (AMD). 1985, c. 724, §23 (RP).

§2251-A. QUALIFICATIONS

(CONTAINS TEXT WITH VARYING EFFECTIVE DATES)

An applicant for a license to practice as a licensed practical nurse shall submit to the board written evidence, verified by oath, that the applicant has the following qualifications. [1985, c. 724, §24 (NEW) .]

An applicant for a license to practice as a licensed practical nurse shall submit to the board written evidence, verified by oath, that the applicant satisfies one of the following qualifications: [2017, c. 476, §1 (AMD) .]

1. Education.

[2003, c. 204, Pt. H, §6 (RP) .]

2. (TEXT EFFECTIVE UNTIL 12/13/18) Approved program. The applicant must have completed a prescribed curriculum in a state-approved program for the preparation of practical nurses and holds a diploma or certificate.

[1985, c. 724, §24 (NEW) .]

2. (TEXT EFFECTIVE 12/13/18) Approved program. The applicant completed a prescribed curriculum in a state-approved program for the preparation of practical nurses and holds a diploma or certificate; or

[2017, c. 476, §1 (AMD) .]

3. (TEXT EFFECTIVE 12/13/18) Military training and experience. The applicant:

A. Served on active duty in the medical corps of any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States and spent an aggregate of at least 12 months rendering bedside patient care; [2017, c. 476, §1 (NEW).]

B. Completed the basic course of instruction in nursing required by the branch of the Armed Forces of the United States in which the applicant served; and [2017, c. 476, §1 (NEW).]

C. Was honorably discharged from active duty. [2017, c. 476, §1 (NEW).]

[2017, c. 476, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

1985, c. 724, §24 (NEW). 1993, c. 600, §A133 (AMD). 2003, c. 204, §H6 (AMD). 2017, c. 476, §1 (AMD).

§2252. LICENSE; EXAMINATION

The applicant is required to pass a written examination in subjects considered necessary by the board to determine the fitness of the applicant to practice practical nursing. Upon the applicant's successfully passing the examination, the board shall issue to the applicant a license to practice as a licensed practical nurse, that license to be in force for a period of at least one year until the birth date of the licensee. The initial license is renewable as provided in section 2255. [2005, c. 163, §7 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

1983, c. 553, §46 (AMD). 1985, c. 724, §25 (AMD). 1991, c. 153, §3 (AMD). 1991, c. 153, §5 (AFF). 2005, c. 163, §7 (AMD).

§2253. -- TIME AND PLACE

Time and place of examination shall be as provided in subchapter 3.

§2254. -- ENDORSEMENT

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

1985, c. 361, §3 (RP).

§2254-A. LICENSURE OF PERSONS LICENSED BY ANOTHER JURISDICTION

The board may issue a license to practice as a licensed practical nurse under the following circumstances: [1985, c. 361, §4 (NEW).]

1. Applicants licensed by other states, United States territories and Canadian provinces. The board may issue a license without examination of the applicant by the board to an applicant licensed to practice by a state or territory of the United States or a province of Canada if the applicant:

A. Has graduated from an educational program approved by the official approving authority of a state or territory of the United States or a province of Canada, which at the time of graduation had standards considered by the board to be equivalent to those of Maine schools; [1985, c. 361, §4 (NEW).]

B. Has been duly licensed by examination by the nursing board of a state or territory of the United States or a province of Canada, provided that the examination is considered by the board to be equivalent in all essentials to Maine's examination and provided that the license of the applicant is in good standing and that there is no cause for suspension or revocation of that license. Acceptable examinations include

the State Board Test Pool Examination, the National Council Licensure Examination and, for a person licensed prior to December 31, 2006, the Canadian Nurses' Association Testing Service Examination; and [2005, c. 473, §2 (AMD) .]

C. If licensed in the other jurisdiction by passing an examination in a language other than English, has passed the Test of English as a Foreign Language. The board shall provide information regarding the test to applicants who are required to take that test. [1985, c. 361, §4 (NEW) .]

[2005, c. 473, §2 (AMD) .]

2. Applicants licensed by other jurisdictions. The board may issue a license to an applicant licensed to practice by a jurisdiction other than those listed in subsection 1, if the applicant:

A. Has graduated from an educational program approved by the official approving authority of a jurisdiction other than those listed in subsection 1, which at the time of graduation had standards considered by the board to be equivalent to those of Maine schools; [1985, c. 361, §4 (NEW) .]

B. Has been duly licensed by examination by the nursing board of a jurisdiction other than those listed in subsection 1, provided that the examination is considered by the board to be equivalent in all essentials to Maine's examination and provided that the license of the applicant is in good standing and that there is no cause for suspension or revocation of that license; [1985, c. 361, §4 (NEW) .]

C. Has passed the National Council Licensure Examination for practical nurses; and [1985, c. 361, §4 (NEW) .]

D. If licensed in the other jurisdiction by passing an examination in a language other than English, has either passed the Test of English as a Foreign Language or fulfilled the requirements of paragraph C by passing a test given in English. [1985, c. 361, §4 (NEW) .]

[1985, c. 361, §4 (NEW) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1985, c. 361, §4 (NEW). 2005, c. 473, §2 (AMD).

§2255. RENEWALS

The license of every practical nurse licensed under this chapter is renewable every 2 years, except as otherwise provided. At least 30 days before the date that the license expires, the board shall mail an application for renewal of license to each practical nurse who holds a valid license. The application must be mailed to the most recent address of that individual as it appears on the records of the board. That individual shall complete the renewal application and return it to the board with the renewal fee designated by the board, but not to exceed \$100, before the expiration date of the license. Upon receipt of the application and fee, the board shall verify the accuracy of the application and issue to the applicant a renewal of license for a period of 2 years, expiring on the anniversary of the applicant's birth. [1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §134 (AMD) .]

A practical nurse who fails to renew the license as provided may be reinstated by the board on satisfactory explanation for failure to renew the license and on payment of a reinstatement fee of \$10 in addition to the renewal fee. [1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §134 (AMD) .]

An individual practicing nursing as a licensed practical nurse during the time the individual's license has lapsed is considered an illegal practitioner and is subject to the penalties provided for violations of this chapter. [1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §134 (AMD) .]

An individual who is not engaged in practical nursing in the State is not required to pay a renewal fee as long as the individual does not practice but shall notify the board of inactive status in writing prior to the expiration date of that individual's current license. Before the resumption of practice as a licensed practical nurse and transfer to active status, that individual is required to notify the board, complete a renewal application and remit the current renewal fee. [1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §134 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

1965, c. 206, §§5,6 (AMD). 1969, c. 26, §§3,4 (AMD). 1975, c. 114, §§4,5 (AMD). 1983, c. 176, §A14 (RPR). 1985, c. 724, §§26,27 (AMD). 1989, c. 609, §§6,7 (AMD). 1991, c. 153, §4 (AMD). 1991, c. 153, §5 (AFF). 1993, c. 600, §A134 (AMD).

§2256. LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE; FEES

Every applicant applying for a license to practice as a licensed practical nurse shall pay a fee to the board as follows:

1. Examination. For examination, a fee not to exceed \$100 payable on application;

[1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §135 (AMD) .]

2. Reexamination. For reexamination, a fee to be determined by the board not to exceed \$100; and

[1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §135 (AMD) .]

3. Endorsement. For endorsement, a fee not to exceed \$100 payable on application.

[1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §135 (AMD) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1965, c. 206, §7 (AMD). 1969, c. 26, §5 (AMD). 1975, c. 114, §§6,7 (AMD). 1989, c. 609, §§8,9 (AMD). 1993, c. 600, §A135 (AMD).

§2257. TITLE AND ABBREVIATION

An individual who holds a current license to practice as a licensed practical nurse in this State has the right to use the title "Licensed Practical Nurse" and abbreviation "L.P.N." No other individual may assume that title or use that abbreviation or other words, letters, signs or figures to indicate that the individual using the same is a licensed practical nurse. [1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §136 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

1985, c. 724, §28 (AMD). 1993, c. 600, §A136 (AMD).

§2258. REGISTRATION UNDER PRIOR LAW

An individual holding a license as a licensed practical nurse in the State issued by the former Board of Registration of Nurses that is valid on September 12, 1959 is licensed as a licensed practical nurse under this chapter, and the renewal of the licenses for those individuals must be effectuated under this subchapter. [2009, c. 2, §88 (COR).]

SECTION HISTORY

1993, c. 600, §A137 (AMD). RR 2009, c. 2, §88 (COR).

§2258-A. ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION

Any employee of an institution under the control of the Department of Health and Human Services or of an institution licensed by the State as a hospital, nursing home, extended care facility or boarding home who, in the exercise of due care, is authorized by the head of that institution or a designee to perform selected activities in the administration of medications and any individual who, in the exercise of due care, is delegated those functions by a licensed allopathic or osteopathic physician is immune from criminal prosecution and civil liability for that administration of medication prior to January 1, 1978 but not after January 1, 1978. [1995, c. 560, Pt. K, §82 (AMD); 1995, c. 560, Pt. K, §83 (AFF); 2001, c. 354, §3 (AMD); 2003, c. 689, Pt. B, §6 (REV).]

SECTION HISTORY

1973, c. 535, (NEW). 1973, c. 737, §2 (AMD). 1975, c. 698, §5 (AMD). 1977, c. 497, §11 (AMD). 1993, c. 600, §A138 (AMD). 1995, c. 560, §K82 (AMD). 1995, c. 560, §K83 (AFF). 2001, c. 354, §3 (AMD). 2003, c. 689, §B6 (REV).

§2258-B. DISPENSING OPIOID MEDICATION TO PATIENTS IN OPIOID TREATMENT PROGRAMS

A licensed practical nurse may dispense opioid medication for substance use disorder treatment purposes to patients within an opioid treatment program under the direction of the medical director of the opioid treatment program. [2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §126 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

2017, c. 305, §2 (NEW). 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §126 (AMD).

§2259. WAIVER

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

1967, c. 263, §7 (NEW). 1971, c. 601, §3 (RP). 1971, c. 622, §117 (RP).

Subchapter 5: COMMISSION ON NURSING
SUPPLY AND EDUCATIONAL ACCESSIBILITY

§2261. COMMISSION

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

1985, c. 724, §29 (NEW). 1985, c. 819, §§A33-36 (AMD). 1987, c. 769, §A121 (AMD). 1989, c. 443, §§86,87 (AMD). 1999, c. 668, §119 (RP).

Subchapter 6: JOINT PRACTICE COUNCIL ON
ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSING

§2265. COUNCIL

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

1995, c. 379, §9 (NEW). 1997, c. 245, §19 (AMD). 1999, c. 668, §120 (RP).

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