WEST VIRGINIA CODE CHAPTER 30 ARTICLE 7

WV Legislature

§30-7-1. Definitions.

As used in this article:

“Advanced practice registered nurse” means a registered nurse who has acquired advanced clinical knowledge and skills preparing him or her to provide direct and indirect care to patients as a certified nurse practitioner, certified nurse-midwife, certified registered nurse anesthetist, or clinical nurse specialist, who has completed a board-approved graduate-level education program and who has passed a board-approved national certification examination;

“Board” means the West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses;

“Collaborative relationship” means a working relationship, structured through a written agreement, in which an advanced practice registered nurse may prescribe drugs in collaboration with a qualified physician;

“Direct patient care” means the provision of services to a sick, injured, mentally or physically disabled, elderly or fragile patient that requires some degree of interaction with that patient. Direct patient care may include assessment, treatment, counseling, procedures, self-care, patient education, administration of medication, and implementation of a care plan;

“Practice of registered professional nursing” or “registered professional nursing” means the performance for compensation of any service requiring substantial specialized judgment and skill based on knowledge and application of principles of nursing derived from the biological, physical and social sciences, such as responsible supervision of a patient requiring skill in observation of symptoms and reactions and the accurate recording of the facts, or the supervision and teaching of other persons with respect to such principles of nursing, or in the administration of medications and treatments as prescribed by a licensed physician, a licensed dentist or a licensed advanced practice registered nurse, or the application of such nursing procedures as involve understanding of cause and effect in order to safeguard life and health of a patient and others; and

“Temporary permit” means a permit authorizing the holder to practice registered professional nursing in this state until such permit is no longer effective or the holder is granted a license by the West Virginia State Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses.

WV Legislature

§30-7-1a. Eligibility for licensure by meeting requirements which existed prior to the legislative enactments during the 2012 legislative session.

[Repealed].

WV Legislature

§30-7-2. License required to practice.

(a) It is unlawful for any person not licensed under the provisions of this article to practice or to offer to practice registered professional nursing in this state, or to use any title, sign, card or device to indicate that such person is a registered professional nurse: Provided, That any professional nurse holding an active, unencumbered license to practice in another state, who accompanies a patient to whom he or she administers nursing care while such patient is in transit or being transported into, out of, or through this state, may practice without a license issued under this article with the following limitations: (1) Such nurse may only administer nursing care to the patient whom they are accompanying in this state; and (2) under no circumstances is any such nurse authorized to practice nursing in this state for longer than forty-eight hours within any three-month period; and (3) under no circumstances shall any such nurse hold him or herself out as a registered professional nurse licensed in this state. Such forty-eight hour period shall commence and run from the time such nurse first enters the borders of this state in the company of his or her patient and therefrom run continuously, whether or not such nurse dispenses nursing care, until such forty-eight hour period has elapsed.

(b) To practice as an advanced practice registered nurse in this state, a person must have a valid advanced practice registered nurse license issued by the board. It is unlawful for any person to practice or offer to practice as an advanced practice registered nurse, to use any title, sign, card or device to indicate or give the impression that such person is an advanced practice registered nurse or to practice as, perform the role of, or use any title, sign, card or device to indicate that the person is a certified registered nurse anesthetist, certified nurse-midwife, clinical nurse specialist or certified nurse practitioner, unless that person is currently licensed by the board as an advanced practice registered nurse.

WV Legislature

§30-7-3. Board of examiners for registered professional nurses.

(a) The West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses is renamed the West Virginia Board of Registered Nurses effective July 1, 2022. The members of the West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses shall remain as members until the new appointments are made.

(b) By July 1, 2022, the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint a new board as follows:

(1) One person licensed as an advanced practice registered professional nurse by the board;

(2) One person who is certified as a dialysis technician by the board;

(3) Four persons licensed as a registered professional nurse by the board and meet the following requirements:

(A) One registered professional nurse, who provides direct patient care in a long-term care facility, home health or hospice;

(B) Two registered professional nurses, who provide direct patient care in a hospital setting or acute care setting; and,

(C) One registered professional nurse, who teaches nursing; and,

(4) One citizen member who is not licensed under the provisions of this chapter and who has never performed any services as a health care professional.

(c) Organizations that represent nurses may submit to the Governor recommendations for the appointment of the licensed board members.

(d) The appointment term is four years. A member may not serve more than two consecutive terms. A member may continue to serve until his or her successor has been appointed and qualified.

(e) Each member of the board shall be a resident of this state during the appointment term.

(f) A vacancy on the board shall be filled by appointment by the Governor for the unexpired term of the member whose office is vacant.

(g) The Governor may remove any member from the board for neglect of duty, incompetency, or official misconduct.

(h) A licensed member of the board immediately and automatically forfeits membership to the board if his or her license to practice is disciplined in any jurisdiction.

(i) A member of the board immediately and automatically forfeits membership to the board if

WV Legislature

he or she is convicted of a felony under the laws of any jurisdiction or becomes a nonresident of this state.

(j) The board shall elect one of its members as president and one member as secretary who shall serve at the will and pleasure of the board.

(k) A member of the board is entitled to receive compensation and expense reimbursement in accordance with §30-1-1 *et seq*. of this code.

(l) A simple majority of the membership serving on the board at a given time is a quorum for the transaction of business.

(m) The board shall hold at least two meetings annually. Other meetings shall be held at the call of the president or upon the written request of four members, at the time and place as designated in the call or request.

(n) Prior to commencing his or her duties as a member of the board, each member shall take and subscribe to the oath required by section five, article four of the Constitution of this state.

(o) A board member, when acting in good faith and without malice, shall enjoy immunity from individual civil liability while acting within the scope of their duties as board members.

WV Legislature

§30-7-4. Organization and meetings of board; quorum; powers and duties generally; executive secretary; funds.

(a) The board has all the powers and duties set forth in this article, in §30-1-1 *et seq.* of this code and elsewhere in law, including the ability to:

(1) Hold meetings;

(2) Establish procedures for submitting, approving, and rejecting applications for a license and permit;

(3) Determine the qualifications of an applicant for a license and permit;

(4) Establish the fees charged under the provisions of this article;

(5) Issue, renew, restrict, deny, suspend, revoke, or reinstate a license and permit;

(6) Prepare, conduct, administer, and grade written, oral, or written and oral examinations for a license;

(7) Contract with third parties to administer the examinations required under the provisions of this article;

(8) Maintain records of the examinations the board, or a third party, administers, including the number of persons taking the examination and the pass and fail rate;

(9) Maintain an office and hire, discharge, establish the job requirements, and fix the compensation of employees, and contract with persons necessary to enforce the provisions of this article;

(10) Employ investigators, attorneys, hearing examiners, consultants, and other employees as may be necessary who are exempt from the classified service and who serve at the will and pleasure of the board;

(11) Delegate hiring of employees to the executive director;

(12) Investigate alleged violations of the provisions of this article and legislative rules, orders, and final decisions of the board;

(13) Conduct disciplinary hearings of persons regulated by the board;

(14) Determine disciplinary action and issue orders;

(15) Institute appropriate legal action for the enforcement of the provisions of this article;

(16) Maintain an accurate registry of names and addresses of all persons regulated by the board;

WV Legislature

(17) Keep accurate and complete records of its proceedings, and certify the same as may be necessary and appropriate;

(18) Public meeting minutes to its website within 14 days of a meeting;

(19) Propose rules in accordance with the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code to implement the provisions of this article;

(20) Sue and be sued in its official name as an agency of this state;

(21) Approve a nursing school;

(22) Establish a nurse health program;

(23) Implement the provisions of the enhanced nurse licensure compact in accordance with §30-7B-1 *et seq.* of this code;

(24) Coordinate with and assist the Center for Nursing in accordance with §30-7B-1 *et seq.* of this code; and

(25) Confer with the Attorney General or his or her assistant in connection with legal matters and questions.

(b) All fees and other moneys collected by the board pursuant to the provisions of this article shall be kept in a separate fund and expended solely for the purpose of this article. No part of this special fund shall revert to the General Funds of this state. The compensation provided by this article and all expenses incurred under this article shall be paid from this special fund. No compensation or expense incurred under this article shall be a charge against the General Funds of this state.

WV Legislature

§30-7-5. Schools of nursing.

(a) A nursing program is determined to be board approved if the program is accredited by a national nursing accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education. The accreditation is considered board approved and is exempt from board rules that require ongoing approval if the school or program maintains this accreditation.

(b) By July 1, 2022, all nursing programs shall be accredited by a national accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education. A program created after July 1, 2018, shall have 5 years to obtain accreditation by an accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education.

(c) The board may require information concerning the nursing program to be reported to the board by legislative rule. The requested information shall be consistent with information already being collected by the schools which is required to maintain the program's accreditation.

(d) The board shall approve a new nursing program until the program is accredited by a national nursing accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education.

WV Legislature

§30-7-5a. Schools of nursing faculty requirements.

(a) Full-time nursing faculty members shall:

(1) Have a graduate degree with a major in nursing; have a bachelor's degree with a major in nursing and be enrolled in a graduate degree program with a major in nursing within one year of employment as a faculty member; or have a bachelor's degree with a major in nursing and at least 10 years of direct patient care experience in nursing;

(2) Have evidence of current experience in nursing practice and education sufficient to demonstrate professional competence. For faculty with less than two years' experience in education, the nursing program administrator will submit to the board mentoring and orientation plans as defined by board guidelines and function under the guidance of a faculty member fully qualified in the specific teaching area and professional competence; and

(3) Have credentials which verify status as a registered professional nurse in West Virginia.

(b) Part-time nursing faculty members shall:

(1) Have a graduate degree with a major in nursing; have a bachelor's degree with a major in nursing and be enrolled in a graduate degree program with a major in nursing within one year of employment as a faculty member; or have a bachelor's degree with a major in nursing and at least two years of direct patient care experience in nursing;

(2) Have evidence of current experience in nursing practice and education sufficient to demonstrate professional competence. For faculty with less than two years' experience in education, the nursing program administrator will submit to the board mentoring and orientation plans as defined by board guidelines and function under the guidance of a faculty member fully qualified in the specific teaching area and professional competence; and

(3) Have credentials which verify status as a registered professional nurse in West Virginia.

(c) The board may grant an exception to the requirements in §30-7-5a(a) and §30-7-5a(b) of this code for faculty members who have qualifications other than those set forth in these subsections which are acceptable to the board.

WVLegislature

§30-7-6. License to practice registered professional nursing.

(a) The board may issue a license to practice registered nursing to an applicant who meets the following requirements:

(1) Is at least 18 years of age;

(2) Has completed an approved four-year high school course of study or the equivalent thereof, as determined by the appropriate educational agency;

(3) Has completed a nursing education program;

(4) Has passed an examination approved by the board;

(5) Has paid the application fee specified by rule;

(6) Has completed a criminal background check, as required by §30-1D-1 et seq. of this code; and

(7) Is not an alcohol or drug abuser, as these terms are defined in §27-1A-11 of this code, unless an applicant in an active recovery process, which may be evidenced by participation in a Nurse Health Program, structured aftercare, or a 12-step program or other similar group or process, may be considered.

(b) A license to practice registered professional nursing issued by the board shall for all purposes be considered a license issued under this section: *Provided*, That a person holding a license shall renew the license.

WV Legislature

§30-7-6a. Special volunteer registered professional nurse license; civil immunity for voluntary services rendered to indigents.

(a) There is established a special volunteer license for registered professional nurses retired or retiring from the active practice of nursing who wish to donate their expertise for the care and treatment of indigent and needy patients in the clinical setting of clinics organized, in whole or in part, for the delivery of health care services without charge. The special volunteer registered professional nurse license shall be issued by the West Virginia Board of Examiners for registered professional nurses to registered professional nurses licensed or otherwise eligible for licensure under this article and the legislative rules promulgated hereunder without the payment of an application fee, license fee or renewal fee, shall be issued for the remainder of the licensing period, and renewed consistent with the boards other licensing requirements. The board shall develop application forms for the special license provided in this subsection which shall contain the registered professional nurse's acknowledgment that:

(1) The registered professional nurse's practice under the special volunteer registered professional nurse license will be exclusively devoted to providing nursing care to needy and indigent persons in West Virginia;

(2) The registered professional nurse will not receive any payment or compensation, either direct or indirect, or have the expectation of any payment or compensation but may donate to the clinic the proceeds of any reimbursement, for any nursing services rendered under the special volunteer registered professional nurse license;

(3) The registered professional nurse will supply any supporting documentation that the board may reasonably require; and

(4) The registered professional nurse agrees to continue to participate in continuing education as required by the board for the special volunteer registered professional nurse license.

(b) Any person engaged in the active practice of nursing in this state whose license is in good standing may donate their expertise for the care and treatment of indigent and needy patients pursuant to an arrangement with a clinic organized, in whole or in part, for the delivery of health care services without charge to the patient. Services rendered pursuant to an arrangement may be performed in either the office of the registered professional nurse or the clinical setting.

(c) Any registered professional nurse who renders nursing service to indigent and needy patients of a clinic organized, in whole or in part, for the delivery of health care services without charge under a special volunteer registered professional nurse license authorized under subsection (a) of this section or pursuant to an arrangement with a clinic as authorized pursuant to subsection (b) of this section without payment or compensation or the expectation or promise of payment or compensation is immune from liability for any civil

WV Legislature

action arising out of any act or omission resulting from the rendering of the nursing service at the clinic unless the act or omission was the result of the registered professional nurse's gross negligence or willful misconduct. In order for the immunity under this subsection to apply, there must be a written agreement between the registered professional nurse and the clinic pursuant to which the registered professional nurse will provide voluntary uncompensated nursing services under the control of the clinic to patients of the clinic before the rendering of any services by the registered professional nurse at the clinic: Provided, That any clinic entering into such written agreement is required to maintain liability coverage of not less than $1 million per occurrence.

(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, a clinic organized, in whole or in part, for the delivery of health care services without charge is not relieved from imputed liability for the negligent acts of a registered professional nurse rendering voluntary nursing services at or for the clinic under a special volunteer registered professional nurse license authorized under subsection (a) of this section or who renders such care and treatment pursuant to an arrangement with a clinic as authorized pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

(e) For purposes of this section, "otherwise eligible for licensure" means the satisfaction of all the requirements for licensure as listed in section six of this article and in the legislative rules promulgated thereunder, except the fee requirements of that section and of the legislative rules promulgated by the board relating to fees.

(f) Nothing in this section may be construed as requiring the board to issue a special volunteer registered professional nurse license to any registered professional nurse whose license is or has been subject to any disciplinary action or to any registered professional nurse who has surrendered his or her license or caused such license to lapse, expire and become invalid in lieu of having a complaint initiated or other action taken against his or her license, or who has elected to place a registered professional nurse license in inactive status in lieu of having a complaint initiated or other action taken against his or her license, or who has been denied a registered professional nurse license.

(g) Any policy or contract of liability insurance providing coverage for liability sold, issued or delivered in this state to any registered professional nurse covered under the provisions of this article shall be read so as to contain a provision or endorsement whereby the company issuing such policy waives or agrees not to assert as a defense on behalf of the policyholder or any beneficiary thereof, to any claim covered by the terms of such policy within the policy limits, the immunity from liability of the insured by reason of the care and treatment of needy and indigent patients by a registered professional nurse who holds a special volunteer registered professional nurse license or who renders such care and treatment pursuant to an arrangement with a clinic as authorized pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

WV Legislature

§30-7-6b. Special volunteer license; civil immunity for voluntary services rendered to indigents.

(a) There is established a special volunteer license for advanced practice registered nurses retired or retiring from the active practice of nursing who wish to donate their expertise for the care and treatment of indigent and needy patients in the clinical setting of clinics organized, in whole or in part, for the delivery of health care services without charge. The special volunteer advanced practice registered nurse license shall be issued by the West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered professional nurses to advanced practice registered nurses licensed or otherwise eligible for licensure pursuant to this article and the rules promulgated hereunder without the payment of an application fee, license fee or renewal fee, shall be issued for the remainder of the licensing period, and renewed consistent with the boards other licensing requirements. The board shall develop application forms for the special license provided in this subsection which shall contain the advanced practice registered nurse's acknowledgment that:

(1) The advanced practice registered nurse's practice pursuant to the special volunteer advanced practice registered nurses license will be exclusively devoted to providing nursing care to needy and indigent persons in West Virginia;

(2) The advanced practice registered nurse will not receive any payment or compensation, either direct or indirect, or have the expectation of any payment or compensation but may donate to the clinic the proceeds of any reimbursement, for any nursing services rendered pursuant to the special volunteer advanced practice registered nurse license;

(3) The advanced practice registered nurse will supply any supporting documentation that the board may reasonably require; and

(4) The advanced practice registered nurse agrees to continue to participate in continuing education as required by the board for the special volunteer advanced practice registered nurse license.

(b) Any person licensed as an advanced practice registered nurse in this state whose license is in good standing may donate their expertise for the care and treatment of indigent and needy patients pursuant to an arrangement with a clinic organized, in whole or in part, for the delivery of health care services without charge to the patient. Services rendered pursuant to an arrangement may be performed in either the office of the advanced practice registered nurses or the clinical setting.

(c) A advanced practice registered nurse and his or her collaborating physician who render nursing service to indigent and needy patients of a clinic organized, in whole or in part, for the delivery of health care services without charge pursuant to a special volunteer advanced practice registered nurse license authorized pursuant to subsection (a) of this section or pursuant to an arrangement with a clinic as authorized pursuant to subsection (b) of this section without payment or compensation or the expectation or promise of payment or

WV Legislature

compensation is immune from liability for any civil action arising out of any act or omission resulting from the rendering of the nursing service at the clinic unless the act or omission was the result of the advanced practice registered nurse's and his or her collaborating physician's gross negligence or willful misconduct. For the immunity pursuant to this subsection to apply, there must be a written agreement between the licensed practical nurse and the clinic pursuant to which the advanced practice registered nurse will provide voluntary uncompensated nursing services under the control of the clinic to patients of the clinic before the rendering of any services by the advanced practice registered nurse at the clinic: Provided, That any clinic entering into such written agreement is required to maintain liability coverage of not less than $1 million per occurrence.

(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, a clinic organized, in whole or in part, for the delivery of health care services without charge is not relieved from imputed liability for the negligent acts of a advanced practice registered nurse rendering voluntary nursing services at or for the clinic pursuant to a special volunteer advanced practice registered nurse license authorized pursuant to subsection (a) of this section or who renders such care and treatment pursuant to an arrangement with a clinic as authorized pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

(e) For purposes of this section, "otherwise eligible for licensure" means the satisfaction of all the requirements for licensure as listed in section six of this article and in the rules promulgated thereunder, except the fee requirements of that section and of the legislative rules promulgated by the board relating to fees.

(f) Nothing in this section may be construed as requiring the board to issue a special volunteer advanced practice registered nurse license to any advanced practice registered nurse whose license is or has been subject to any disciplinary action or to any advanced practice registered nurse who has surrendered his or her license or caused such license to lapse, expire and become invalid in lieu of having a complaint initiated or other action taken against his or her license, or who has elected to place a advanced practice registered nurse license in inactive status in lieu of having a complaint initiated or other action taken against his or her license, or who has been denied a advanced practice registered nurse license.

(g) Any policy or contract of liability insurance providing coverage for liability sold, issued or delivered in this state to any advanced practice registered nurse covered pursuant to the provisions of this article shall be read so as to contain a provision or endorsement whereby the company issuing such policy waives or agrees not to assert as a defense on behalf of the policyholder or any beneficiary thereof, to any claim covered by the terms of such policy within the policy limits, the immunity from liability of the insured by reason of the care and treatment of needy and indigent patients by a advanced practice registered nurse who holds a special volunteer advanced practice registered nurse license or who renders such care and treatment pursuant to an arrangement with a clinic as authorized pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

WV Legislature

§30-7-7. License to practice advanced practice registered nursing.

(a) The board may issue an advanced practice registered nurse license to an applicant who meets the following requirements:

(1) Is at least 18 years of age;

(2) Is currently certified by a national certification organization, approved by the board, in one or more of the following nationally recognized advance practice registered nursing roles: Certified registered nurse anesthetist, certified nurse-midwife, clinical nurse specialist, or certified nurse practitioner;

(3) Has paid the application fee specified by legislative rule; and

(4) Is not an alcohol or drug abuser, as these terms are defined in §27-1A-11 of this code, unless an applicant in an active recovery process, which may, in the discretion of the board, be evidenced by participation in a Nurse Health Program, structured aftercare, or a 12-step program or other similar group or process, may be considered.

(b) An advanced practice registered nurse license issued by the board and in good standing on the effective date of the amendments to this section shall for all purposes be considered an advanced practice registered nurse license issued under this section: *Provided*, That a person holding an advanced practice registered nurse license shall renew the license.

(c) An applicant, who is licensed in another jurisdiction as an advanced practice registered nurse, is eligible to apply for licensure.

(d) By virtue of being a licensed advanced practice registered nurse that person is also licensed as a registered professional nurse. The board may not charge an additional fee for registered professional nurse license

WV Legislature

§30-7-8. License renewal.

(a) Persons regulated by this article shall annually or biennially, renew his or her board authorization by completing a form prescribed by the board and submitting any other information required by the board.

(b) The board shall charge a fee for each renewal of a board authorization and shall charge a late fee for any renewal not paid by the due date.

(c) The board may deny an application for renewal for any reason which would justify the denial of an original application.

WV Legislature

§30-7-8a. Temporary permits.

The board may issue a temporary permit to a person applying for a license under this article.

WV Legislature

§30-7-9. Contents of license or certificate.

Each license or certificate issued by the board shall bear a serial number, the full name of the applicant, the date of expiration of any such license and the date of issuance of any such certificate, the seal of the board, and shall be signed by the executive secretary of the board.

WV Legislature

§30-7-10. Use of titles.

Any person licensed pursuant to this article may use the title "registered nurse" and the abbreviation "R.N." or the term "nurse". Except as otherwise provided in article seven-a of this chapter, no other person may assume a title or use abbreviations or any other words, letters, figures, signs, or devices to indicate that the person using the same is a registered professional nurse.

WV Legislature

§30-7-11. Denial, revocation, or suspension of license; grounds for discipline.

(a) The board shall have the power to deny, revoke, or suspend any license to practice registered professional nursing issued or applied for in accordance with the provisions of this article, or to otherwise discipline a licensee or applicant upon proof that he or she:

(1) Is or was guilty of fraud or deceit in procuring or attempting to procure a license to practice registered professional nursing; or

(2) Has been convicted of a felony; or

(3) Is unfit or incompetent by reason of negligence, habits, or other causes; or

(4) Is habitually intemperate or is addicted to the use of habit-forming drugs; or

(5) Is mentally incompetent; or

(6) Is guilty of conduct derogatory to the morals or standing of the profession of registered nursing; or

(7) Is practicing or attempting to practice registered professional nursing without a license or reregistration; or

(8) Has demonstrated abnormal prescribing or dispensing practices pursuant to §30-3A-4 of this code; or

(9) Has willfully or repeatedly violated any of the provisions of this article.

(b) An advanced practice registered nurse licensed under this article may not be disciplined for providing expedited partner therapy in accordance with §16-4F-1 et seq. of this code.

WV Legislature

§30-7-11a. Voluntary agreements relating to alcohol or chemical dependency; confidentiality.

(a) In order to encourage voluntary participation in monitored alcohol, chemical dependency or major mental illness programs and in recognition of the fact that major mental illness, alcoholism and chemical dependency are illnesses, any person who holds a license to practice registered nursing in this state or who is applying for a license to practice registered nursing in this state may enter into a voluntary agreement with a nurse health program as defined in section one, article seven-e of this chapter. The agreement between the licensee or applicant and the nurse health program shall include a jointly agreed upon treatment program and mandatory conditions and procedures to monitor compliance with the program of recovery.

(b) Any voluntary agreement entered into pursuant to this section shall not be considered a disciplinary action or order by the board, shall not be disclosed to the board and shall not be public information if:

(1) Such voluntary agreement is the result of the licensee or applicant self enrolling or voluntarily participating in the board- designated nurse health program;

(2) The board has not received nor filed any written complaints regarding said licensee or applicant relating to an alcohol, chemical dependency or major mental illness affecting the care and treatment of patients; and

(3) The licensee or applicant is in compliance with the voluntary treatment program and the conditions and procedures to monitor compliance.

(c) Pursuant to this section, if any licensee or applicant enters into a voluntary agreement with a nurse health program as defined in section one, article seven-e of this chapter, and then fails to comply with or fulfill the terms of said agreement, the nurse health program shall report the noncompliance to the board within twenty-four hours. The board may initiate disciplinary proceedings pursuant to section eleven of this article or may permit continued participation in the nurse health program or both.

(d) If the board has not instituted any disciplinary proceeding as provided for in this article, any information received, maintained or developed by the board relating to the alcohol or chemical dependency impairment of any licensee or applicant and any voluntary agreement made pursuant to this section shall be confidential and not available for public information, discovery or court subpoena, nor for introduction into evidence in any medical professional liability action or other action for damages arising out of the provision of or failure to provide health care services.

(e) Notwithstanding any of the foregoing provisions, the board may cooperate with and provide documentation of any voluntary agreement entered into pursuant to this section to licensing boards in other jurisdictions of which the board has become aware and may be

WV Legislature

appropriate.

WV Legislature

§30-7-12. Exceptions.

This article shall not be construed to prohibit:

(a) The furnishing of nursing assistance in an emergency; or

(b) The practice of nursing incidental to a program of study by students enrolled in a nursing education program accredited by the board; or

(c) The practice of any legally qualified nurse of another state who is employed by the United States or any bureau, division or agency thereof, while in the discharge of his or her official duties.

WV Legislature

§30-7-13. Prohibitions and penalties.

It shall be a misdemeanor for any person, including any corporation or association, to:

(a) Sell or fraudulently obtain or furnish any nursing diploma, license or record or aid or abet therein; or

(b) Practice registered professional nursing under cover of any diploma, license or record illegally or fraudulently obtained or signed or issued or under fraudulent representation; or

(c) Practice registered professional nursing unless duly licensed to do so under the provisions of this article; or

(d) Use in connection with his or her name any designation tending to imply that he or she is licensed to practice registered professional nursing unless duly licensed so to practice under the provisions of this article; or

(e) Practice registered professional nursing during the time his or her license issued under the provisions of this article shall be suspended or revoked; or

(f) Conduct a nursing education program for the preparation of registered professional nursing practitioners unless such program has been accredited by the board; or

(g) Otherwise violate any provisions of this article.

Upon conviction, each such misdemeanor shall be punishable by a fine of not less than twenty-five nor more than $250.

WV Legislature

§30-7-14. Injunction or other relief against unlawful acts.

The practice of registered professional nursing by any person who has not been licensed under the provisions of this article, or whose license has expired or has been suspended or revoked, is hereby declared to be inimical to the public health and welfare and to be a public nuisance. Whenever in the judgment of the board any person has engaged in, is engaging in or is about to engage in the practice of registered professional nursing without holding a valid license hereunder, or has engaged, is engaging or is about to engage in any act which constitutes, or will constitute, a violation of this article, the board may make application to the appropriate court having equity jurisdiction for an order enjoining such practices or acts, and upon a showing that such person has engaged, is engaging or is about to engage, in any such practices or acts, an injunction, restraining order, or such other order as the court may deem appropriate shall be entered by the court.

The remedy provided in this section shall be in addition to, and not in lieu of, all other penalties and remedies provided in this article.

WV Legislature

§30-7-15. Administration of anesthetics.

(a) A certified registered nurse anesthetist may administer anesthesia in cooperation with a physician, dentist, or podiatrist when providing the anesthesia.

(1) As used in this section, “cooperation” means a process in which the certified registered nurse anesthetist and the physician, dentist, or podiatrist work together as a team with each contributing an area of expertise at their individual and respective levels of education and training. At all times during such cooperation, the medical or dental care of the patient is directed by the physician, dentist, or podiatrist.

(2) A dentist may cooperate with a certified registered nurse anesthetist under this section only if he or she holds an anesthesia permit pursuant to article §30-4A-1 *et seq*. of this code.

(3) The physician, dentist, or podiatrist is not liable for any act or omission of a certified registered nurse anesthetist who orders or administers anesthetics under this section.

(b) A certified registered nurse anesthetist lawfully may perform acts that determine, prepare, administer, and monitor anesthesia care and anesthesia care-related services if he or she:

(1) Has at any time held a registered professional nursing license under this article; and

(2) Holds a current advanced practice registered nurse license under this article; and

(3) Has completed successfully a nurse anesthetist educational program at a nationally accredited graduate or post-graduate advanced practice registered nurse educational institution; and

(4) Holds current certification by a national certifying body recognized by the Board of Nursing in the advanced practice registered nurse role and population foci appropriate for educational preparation.

(c) A certified registered nurse anesthetist does not have independent practice authority.

(d) A licensed advanced practice registered nurse practicing in the role of certified registered nurse anesthetist may only use the title "certified registered nurse anesthetist", "CRNA", "advanced practice registered nurse", or "APRN".

(e) On or before July 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the Board of Nursing shall report to the Legislature regarding the implementation and impact of this section. The report shall include:

(1) Any problems or issues that have been reported to the board by hospitals, dental offices, podiatrist offices, ambulatory surgical centers, and all other locations where nurse anesthetists are authorized to practice in the state; and

WV Legislature

(2) Any treatment complications resulting from the administration of anesthesia by certified registered nurse anesthetists.

WV Legislature

§30-7-15a. Prescriptive authority for prescription drugs.

(a) An advanced practice registered nurse may not prescribe a Schedule I controlled substance as provided in §60A-2-204 of this code.

(b) An advanced practice registered nurse may prescribe up to a three-day supply of a Schedule II narcotic as provided in §60A-2-206 of this code: *Provided*, That an advanced practice registered nurse who is participating in a clinical trial, with institutional review board approval, for the rural expansion of medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorder may dispense for the time frame of the clinical trial, after registering with the Board of Pharmacy: *Provided, however*, That this exemption only permits one program to participate once in CTN-0102-XR, which is also the same program as provided for in §60A-9-4 of this code.

(c) There are no other limitations on the prescribing authority of an advanced practice registered nurse, except as provided in §16-54-1 *et seq*. of this code.

WV Legislature

§30-7-15b. Eligibility for prescriptive authority; application; fee; collaborative relationships and agreements.

(a) An advanced practice registered nurse shall be eligible to apply for authorization to prescribe drugs pursuant to section fifteen-a of this article after satisfying the following requirements:

(1) Be licensed and certified in West Virginia as an advanced practice registered nurse;

(2) Be at least eighteen years of age;

(3) Have completed forty-five contact hours of education in pharmacology and clinical management of drug therapy under a program approved by the board, fifteen hours of which shall have been completed within the two-year period immediately prior to entering into a prerequisite collaborative relationship;

(4) Provide the board with evidence that he or she is a person of good moral character and not addicted to alcohol or the use of controlled substances;

(5) Does not have his or her advanced practice registered nursing license, certification or registration in any jurisdiction suspended, limited or revoked; and

(6) Submit a completed, notarized application to the board, accompanied by a fee as established by the board by rule.

(b) The board shall authorize an applicant to prescribe prescription drugs under the terms of a collaborative agreement and in accordance with section fifteen-a of this article and applicable legislative rules if the applicant has met the prerequisites of subsection (a) of this section and the following additional prerequisites are satisfied:

(1) The board is satisfied that the collaborating physician is licensed in good standing;

(2) The collaborative agreement is sufficient in form;

(3) The applicant has completed the education requirements; and

(4) The applicant has submitted a completed application on forms developed by the board and paid an application fee established by the board in legislative rule.

(c) A collaborative agreement for a collaborative relationship for prescriptive practice between a physician and an advanced practice registered nurse shall be set forth in writing and include, but not be limited to, the following:

(1) Mutually agreed upon written guidelines or protocols for prescriptive authority as it applies to the advanced practice registered nurse’s clinical practice;

WV Legislature

(2) Statements describing the individual and shared responsibilities of the advanced practice registered nurse and the collaborating physician;

(3) Periodic and joint evaluation of prescriptive practice; and

(4) Periodic joint review and updating of the written guidelines or protocols.

(d) Verification of a collaborative agreement shall be filed with the board by the advanced practice registered nurse with documentation of completion of the education requirements described in subsection (a) of this section. The board shall forward a copy of the verified agreement to the board through which the collaborative physician is licensed.

(e) The board shall, upon application, authorize an advanced practice registered nurse to prescribe prescription drugs in accordance with section fifteen-a of this article without the further requirement of a collaborative agreement if the applicant has satisfied the following prerequisites:

(1) Has practiced at least three years in a duly-documented collaborative relationship with granted prescriptive authority;

(2) Licensed in good standing with the board; and

(3) Has submitted a completed application on forms developed by the board and paid an application fee established by the board in legislative rule.

(f) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (e) of this section, the board may require an advanced practice registered nurse to practice in a collaborative agreement if the board determines, by order arising out of the board’s complaint process, that a collaborative relationship is necessary for the rehabilitation of a licensee or for protection of the public.

WV Legislature

§30-7-15c. Form of prescriptions; termination of authority; renewal; notification of termination of authority.

(a) Prescriptions authorized by an advanced practice registered nurse must comply with all applicable state and federal laws; must be signed by the prescriber with the initials "A.P.R.N." or the designated certification title of the prescriber; and must include the prescriber's identification number assigned by the board or the prescriber's national provider identifier assigned by the National Provider System pursuant to 45 C. F. R. §162.408.

(b) Prescriptive authorization shall be terminated if the advanced practice registered nurse has:

(1) Not maintained current authorization as an advanced practice registered nurse; or

(2) Prescribed outside the advanced practice registered nurse's scope of practice or has prescribed drugs for other than therapeutic purposes; or

(3) Has not filed verification of a collaborative agreement with the board if such an agreement is required.

(c) Prescriptive authority for an advanced practice registered nurse must be renewed biennially. Documentation of eight contact hours of pharmacology during the previous two years must be submitted at the time of renewal.

(d) The board shall notify the Board of Pharmacy within twenty-four hours after termination of, or change in, an advanced practice registered nurse's prescriptive authority.

WV Legislature

§30-7-15d. Advanced practice registered nurse signatory authority.

(a) An advanced practice registered nurse may provide an authorized signature, certification, stamp, verification, affidavit or endorsement on documents within the scope of their practice, including, but not limited to, the following documents:

(1) Death certificates: Provided, That the advanced practice registered nurse has received training from the board on the completion of death certificates;

(2) “Physician orders for life sustaining treatment,” “physician orders for scope of treatment” and “do not resuscitate” forms;

(3) Handicap hunting certificates; and

(4) Utility company forms requiring maintenance of utilities regardless of ability to pay.

(b) An advanced practice registered nurse may not sign a certificate of merit for a medical malpractice claim against a physician.

WV Legislature

§30-7-15e. Joint Advisory Council on Limited Prescriptive Authority.

[Repealed.]

WV Legislature

§30-7-15f. Prohibited practice.

(a) For the purposes of this section:

"Gender" means the psychological, behavioral, social, and cultural aspects of being male or female.

"Gender altering medication" means the prescribing or administering of the following for the purpose of assisting an individual with a gender transition:

(1) Gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH) analogues or other puberty blocking medication to stop or delay normal puberty; and

(2) Supraphysiologic doses of testosterone, estrogen, or other androgens than would normally be produced endogenously in a healthy individual of the same age and sex.

"Gender reassignment surgery" means a surgical procedure performed for the purpose of assisting an individual with a gender transition, including any of the following:

(1) Penectomy, orchiectomy, vaginoplasty, clitoroplasty, vulvoplasty, hysterectomy, or ovariectomy;

(2) Metoidioplasty, phalloplasty, vaginectomy, scrotoplasty, or implantation of erection or testicular prostheses; and

(3) Augmentation mammoplasty, subcutaneous mastectomy, or any plastic, cosmetic, or aesthetic surgery that feminizes or masculinizes the facial or other body features of an individual.

"Gender transition" means the process in which a person goes from identifying with and living as a gender that corresponds to the person’s sex to identifying with and living as a gender different from the person’s sex and may involve social, legal, or physical changes.

"Sex” means the state of being either male or female as observed or clinically verified at birth. There are only two sexes, and every individual is either male or female: *Provided*, That individuals with congenital and medically verifiable "DSD conditions" (sometimes referred to as "differences in sex development", "disorders in sex development", or "intersex conditions") are not members of a third sex and must be accommodated consistent with state and federal law.

(b) An advanced practice registered nurse may not assist in providing gender reassignment surgery or provide gender altering medication to a person who is under 18 years of age.

(c) An advanced practice registered nurse may, within his or her scope of practice, provide any of the following to a person who is under 18 years of age:

WV Legislature

(1) Services provided to an individual born with a medically verifiable disorder of sex development, including, but not limited to, a person with external sex characteristics that are irresolvably ambiguous, such as an individual born with 46 xx chromosomes with virilization, 46 xy chromosomes with undervirilization, or having both ovarian and testicular tissue;

(2) Services provided to an individual when a physician has otherwise diagnosed a disorder of sexual development and in which the physician has determined through genetic or biochemical testing that the individual does not have normal sex chromosome structure, sex steroid hormone production, or sex steroid hormone action;

(3) The treatment of any infection, injury, disease, or disorder that has been caused by or exacerbated by the performance of gender transition procedures, whether or not these procedures were performed in accordance with state and federal law; and

(4) Any procedure undertaken because the individual suffers from a physical disorder, physical injury, or physical illness that would, as certified by a physician, place the person in imminent danger of death, or impairment of a major bodily function unless surgery is performed.

(d) The provisions of this section are effective on August 1, 2025.

(e) If an advanced practice registered nurse provides either gender reassignment surgery or gender altering medication to a person who is under 18 years of age, the appropriate licensing board shall find the advanced practice registered nurse in violation of this section and shall immediately revoke the license of the advanced practice registered nurse.

(f) A person may assert an actual or threatened violation of this section as a claim or defense in a judicial or administrative proceeding and obtain compensatory damages, injunctive relief, declaratory relief, reasonable attorneys' fees, and any other appropriate relief. A person shall bring a claim for a violation of this section not later than two years after the day the cause of action accrues. A minor may bring an action before reaching 18 years of age through a parent or guardian and may bring an action in the minor's own name upon reaching 18 years of age at any time from that point until 20 years after. Inasmuch as the Legislature intends to make unlawful the provision of gender reassignment surgery or gender altering medication to a minor, it is the intent of the Legislature that this section be exempt from compliance with §55-7B-6 of this code.

(g) The Attorney General may bring an action to enforce compliance with this section. Nothing in this section shall be construed to deny, impair, or otherwise affect any right or authority of the Attorney General, the state, or any agency, officer, or employee of the state to institute or intervene in any proceeding.

(h) If any provision of this section, or the application thereof to any provision or circumstance, shall be held unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, such invalidity or

unconstitutionality shall not affect the provisions or application of this section which can be given effect without the unconstitutional or invalid provisions of application, and to this end the provisions of this section are declared to be severable.

WV Legislature

§30-7-16. General law applicable.

Except to the extent that the provisions of this article may be inconsistent therewith, the board shall conform to the requirements prescribed in article one of this chapter.

WV Legislature

§30-7-17.

Repealed.

Acts, 2010 Reg. Sess., Ch. 32.

WV Legislature

§30-7-18. Nursing shortage study commission.

(a) A nursing shortage study commission shall be created by the board. The board shall appoint 9 members to the commission. The board shall appoint:

(1) One individual who is on the board;

(2) Two individuals that are employed as registered professional nurses in a hospital and who work primarily providing direct patient care;

(3) Two registered professional nurses who work as long-term care nurses, one of whom works in a nursing home and one of whom works for a home health agency, both of whom work primarily providing direct patient care;

(4) One nursing administrator;

(5) The Chancellor of the Higher Education Policy Commission;

(6) The West Virginia Nurses' Association President; and

(7) The Executive Director of the Center for Nursing.

(b) Members of the commission are not entitled to compensation for services performed as members, but are entitled to reimbursement for all reasonable and necessary expenses actually incurred in the performance of their duties. Five of the appointed members is a quorum for the purpose of conducting business. The board shall meet at least monthly. The board shall designate a chair, who is not a public official. The commission shall conduct all meetings in accordance with the open meeting law pursuant to §6-9A-1 *et seq*. of this code.

(c) The commission shall:

(1) Study the nursing shortage in West Virginia and ways to alleviate it, including, but not limited to:

(A) Evaluating mechanisms currently available in the state and elsewhere intended to enhance education, recruitment, and retention of nurses in the workforce and to improve quality of care;

(B) Assessing the impact of shortages in nursing personnel on access to, and the delivery of, quality patient care;

(C) Developing recommendations on strategies to reverse the growing shortage of qualified nursing personnel in the state, including:

(i) Determining what changes are needed to existing programs, current scholarship programs and funding mechanisms to better reflect and accommodate the changing health

WV Legislature

care delivery environment and to improve quality of care to meet the needs of patients;

(ii) Facilitating career advancement within nursing;

(iii) Identifying more accurately specific shortage areas in a more timely manner;

(iv) Attracting middle and high school students into nursing as a career; and

(v) Projecting a more positive and professional image of nursing.

(2) Report its findings and recommendation to the Joint Committee on Health by December 1, 2022.

(3) Terminate January 1, 2023.

WV Legislature

§30-7-19. Circulating registered nurses.

A registered nurse as defined in this article, qualified by education, licensed, and experienced in operating room nursing, shall be present as a circulating nurse in each operating room in a hospital, or ambulatory surgical center as defined by section one, article five-b, chapter sixteen of this code, during operative procedures.

WV Legislature

§30-7-20. Pilot program.

[Repealed.]

WV Legislature