

SENATE BILL No. 176

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 25-23-1-12.

Synopsis: Licensed practical nurses. Removes the requirement that a state accredited program of practical nursing only accepts students who have a high school diploma or its equivalent. Requires a person to have earned a high school diploma or its equivalent to qualify for a license to practice as a licensed practical nurse.

Effective: July 1, 2025.

Yoder

January 8, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Health and Provider Services.



First Regular Session of the 124th General Assembly (2025)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2024 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

SENATE BILL No. 176



A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning professions and occupations.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 25-23-1-12, AS AMENDED BY P.L.17-2024,
2 SECTION 18, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
3 JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 12. (a) A person who applies to the board for a
4 license to practice as a licensed practical nurse must:
5 (1) not have been convicted of:
6 (A) an act which would constitute a ground for disciplinary
7 sanction under IC 25-1-9; or
8 (B) a crime that has a direct bearing on the person's ability to
9 practice competently;
10 (2) have completed:
11 (A) the prescribed curriculum and met the graduation
12 requirements of a state accredited program of practical nursing
13 that ~~only accepts students who have a high school diploma or~~
14 ~~its equivalent~~; as determined by the board; or
15 (B) the prescribed curriculum and graduation requirements of
16 a nursing education program in a foreign country that is
17 substantially equivalent to a board approved program as



- 1 determined by the board. The board may by rule adopted under
 2 IC 4-22-2 require an applicant under this subsection to
 3 successfully complete an examination approved by the board
 4 to measure the applicant's qualifications and background in the
 5 practice of nursing and proficiency in the English language;
 6 and
- 7 (3) be physically and mentally capable of, and professionally
 8 competent to, safely engage in the practice of practical nursing as
 9 determined by the board; and
- 10 **(4) have earned a high school diploma or its equivalent.**
- 11 An applicant meets the English proficiency requirement under
 12 subdivision (2) if the applicant passes an English course as certified in
 13 the transcript from the board's approved nursing education program or
 14 submits proof of passing the National Council Licensure Examination
 15 (NCLEX) that was taken in only the English language.
- 16 (b) The applicant must pass an examination in such subjects as the
 17 board may determine.
- 18 (c) The board may issue a temporary licensed practical nurse permit
 19 to practice as a licensed practical nurse applicant to a person who has
 20 initially applied for license by examination, after the board receives the
 21 necessary materials to determine compliance with subsection (a). The
 22 temporary licensed practical nurse permit is valid until the earlier of six
 23 (6) months after issuance or the licensed practical nurse applicant's
 24 examination results under subsection (b) are received. If the licensed
 25 practical nurse applicant does not receive a passing score on the first
 26 examination under subsection (b), the temporary licensed practical
 27 nurse permit is no longer valid.
- 28 (d) A licensed practical nurse applicant must:
- 29 (1) practice under the supervision of a licensed practical nurse or
 30 registered nurse; and
- 31 (2) use the abbreviation "LPNG" after the licensed practical nurse
 32 graduate's name.
- 33 (e) The board may issue by endorsement a license to practice as a
 34 licensed practical nurse to an applicant who has been licensed as a
 35 licensed practical nurse, by examination, under the laws of another
 36 state if the applicant presents proof satisfactory to the board that, at the
 37 time of application for an Indiana license by endorsement, the applicant
 38 possesses credentials and qualifications that are substantially
 39 equivalent to requirements in Indiana for licensure by examination. The
 40 board may specify by rule what shall constitute substantial equivalence
 41 under this subsection.
- 42 (f) The board shall issue by endorsement or examination a license



- 1 to practice as a licensed practical nurse to an applicant who:
- 2 (1) is a graduate of a foreign nursing school;
- 3 (2) has successfully passed the National Council Licensure
- 4 Examination (NCLEX);
- 5 (3) provides:
- 6 (A) documentation that the applicant has:
- 7 (i) taken an examination prepared by the Commission on
- 8 Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools International, Inc.
- 9 (CGFNS); and
- 10 (ii) achieved the passing score required on the examination
- 11 at the time the examination was taken;
- 12 (B) a satisfactory Credentials Evaluation Service Professional
- 13 Report issued by CGFNS;
- 14 (C) a VisaScreen Certificate verification letter issued by
- 15 CGFNS; or
- 16 (D) a satisfactory credential verification assessment from an
- 17 organization that is a member of the National Association of
- 18 Credential Evaluation Services or any other organization
- 19 approved by the board; and
- 20 (4) meets the other requirements of this section.
- 21 (g) Each applicant for examination and registration to practice as a
- 22 practical nurse shall pay:
- 23 (1) a fee set by the board; and
- 24 (2) if the applicant is applying for a multistate license (as defined
- 25 in IC 25-42-1-11) under IC 25-42 (Nurse Licensure Compact), a
- 26 fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25) in addition to the fee under
- 27 subdivision (1);
- 28 a part of which must be used for the rehabilitation of impaired
- 29 registered nurses and impaired licensed practical nurses. Payment of
- 30 the fees shall be made by the applicant before the date of examination.
- 31 (h) The lesser of the following amounts from fees collected under
- 32 subsection (g) shall be deposited in the impaired nurses account of the
- 33 state general fund established by section 34 of this chapter:
- 34 (1) Twenty-five percent (25%) of the license application fee per
- 35 license applied for under this section.
- 36 (2) The cost per license to operate the impaired nurses program,
- 37 as determined by the Indiana professional licensing agency.
- 38 (i) Any person who holds a license to practice as a licensed practical
- 39 nurse in Indiana or under IC 25-42 may use the title "Licensed Practical
- 40 Nurse" and the abbreviation "L.P.N.". No other person shall practice or
- 41 advertise as or assume the title of licensed practical nurse or use the
- 42 abbreviation of "L.P.N." or any other words, letters, signs, or figures to



- 1 indicate that the person using them is a licensed practical nurse.

