



January 17, 2025

SENATE BILL No. 176

DIGEST OF SB 176 (Updated January 15, 2025 11:02 am - DI 104)

Citations Affected: IC 25-23.

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 that an individual applying for license to practice as a licensed practical nurse provide proof of having earned a high school degree or its equivalent to the state accredited program.

Effective: July 1, 2025.

**Yoder, Johnson T, Becker, Busch,
Bohacek, Leising, Crider, Jackson L,
Ford J.D., Randolph Lonnie M**

January 8, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Health and Provider Services.
January 16, 2025, amended, reported favorably — Do Pass.

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January 17, 2025

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:
12 (i) met the graduation requirements of a state accredited
13 program of practical nursing; ~~that only accepts students who~~
14 ~~have a high school diploma or its equivalent; and~~
15 (ii) **provided proof of having earned a high school**
16 **diploma or its equivalent to the state accredited**
17 **program;**

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



1 board may specify by rule what shall constitute substantial equivalence
2 under this subsection.

3 (f) The board shall issue by endorsement or examination a license
4 to practice as a licensed practical nurse to an applicant who:

- 5 (1) is a graduate of a foreign nursing school;
6 (2) has successfully passed the National Council Licensure
7 Examination (NCLEX);

8 (3) provides:

9 (A) documentation that the applicant has:

10 (i) taken an examination prepared by the Commission on
11 Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools International, Inc.
12 (CGFNS); and

13 (ii) achieved the passing score required on the examination
14 at the time the examination was taken;

15 (B) a satisfactory Credentials Evaluation Service Professional
16 Report issued by CGFNS;

17 (C) a VisaScreen Certificate verification letter issued by
18 CGFNS; or

19 (D) a satisfactory credential verification assessment from an
20 organization that is a member of the National Association of
21 Credential Evaluation Services or any other organization
22 approved by the board; and

23 (4) meets the other requirements of this section.

24 (g) Each applicant for examination and registration to practice as a
25 practical nurse shall pay:

26 (1) a fee set by the board; and

27 (2) if the applicant is applying for a multistate license (as defined
28 in IC 25-42-1-11) under IC 25-42 (Nurse Licensure Compact), a
29 fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25) in addition to the fee under
30 subdivision (1);

31 a part of which must be used for the rehabilitation of impaired
32 registered nurses and impaired licensed practical nurses. Payment of
33 the fees shall be made by the applicant before the date of examination.

34 (h) The lesser of the following amounts from fees collected under
35 subsection (g) shall be deposited in the impaired nurses account of the
36 state general fund established by section 34 of this chapter:

37 (1) Twenty-five percent (25%) of the license application fee per
38 license applied for under this section.

39 (2) The cost per license to operate the impaired nurses program,
40 as determined by the Indiana professional licensing agency.

41 (i) Any person who holds a license to practice as a licensed practical
42 nurse in Indiana or under IC 25-42 may use the title "Licensed Practical



1 Nurse" and the abbreviation "L.P.N.". No other person shall practice or
2 advertise as or assume the title of licensed practical nurse or use the
3 abbreviation of "L.P.N." or any other words, letters, signs, or figures to
4 indicate that the person using them is a licensed practical nurse.



COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. President: The Senate Committee on Health and Provider Services, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 176, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the Senate with the recommendation that said bill be AMENDED as follows:

Page 1, delete lines 11 through 14, begin a new line double block indented and insert:

"(A) the prescribed curriculum and:

(i) met the graduation requirements of a state accredited program of practical nursing; ~~that only accepts students who have a high school diploma or its equivalent, and~~

(ii) provided proof of having earned a high school diploma or its equivalent to the state accredited program;

as determined by the board; or".

Page 2, line 6, reset in roman "and".

Page 2, line 9, delete "board; and" and insert "board.".

Page 2, delete line 10.

and when so amended that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to SB 176 as introduced.)

CHARBONNEAU, Chairperson

Committee Vote: Yeas 11, Nays 0.

