

ASSEMBLY AGING AND SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 4857

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 11, 2023

The Assembly Aging and Senior Services Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 4857.

As amended, this bill authorizes nursing school graduates to be issued a temporary license to practice. Specifically, any person who has graduated from an accredited nurse training program but has not yet met the requirements for licensure as a licensed practical nurse or registered nurse may apply to the New Jersey Board of Nursing (board) for a temporary license. Applications are to be submitted in a form and manner, and are to be subject to any fees, as are required by the board. The fees assessed for a temporary license may not exceed the fees assessed by the board for a full nurse license.

A temporary graduate nurse license will be valid for one year. At least 90 days prior to the expiration of the temporary license, the graduated nursing student will be required to initiate the process of applying for full licensure as a registered nurse or a licensed practical nurse, as applicable, including registering for the applicable licensure examination, initiating the process of completing a criminal history record background check, and submitting the required fees. A temporary graduate nurse license will immediately expire if the graduated nursing student fails the applicable licensing examination.

The board may authorize an extension of a temporary graduate nurse license for up to one year on the basis of illness or extreme hardship, provided the graduated nursing student has initiated the process of applying for full licensure and submits an application for extension at least 60 days prior to the expiration of the license that includes a detailed, written explanation of the reason the extension is requested. If requesting an extension due to illness, the applicant will be required to provide certification of the illness from the applicant's treating health care provider. A temporary graduate nurse license may only be extended once.

Graduated nursing students will only be authorized to practice under the supervision of a licensed registered nurse who is physically present in the area where the graduated nursing student is practicing.

As amended, the bill also requires the board to waive initial, temporary, or renewal licensing fees imposed on an applicant for a practical nurse or registered nurse license if the applicant is employed by, or has received an offer of employment from, a long-term care facility. The applicant is required to provide documentation of employment or an offer of employment, as determined by the board.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments revise the definition of “graduate nursing student” to clarify that the term means a person who has graduated from an accredited nurse training program, as opposed to simply a nurse training program.

As introduced, the bill provides that to practice under a temporary graduate nurse license, a graduate nursing student is required to be under the supervision of a licensed registered nurse who is physically present in the area or unit where the graduated nursing student is practicing. As amended, this requirement is limited to when the graduate nursing student is under the supervision of a licensed registered nurse who is physically present in the area where the graduated nursing student is practicing.

The committee amendments require the New Jersey Board of Nursing to waive licensing fees imposed on an applicant for a practical nurse or registered nurse license if the applicant is employed by, or has received an offer of employment from, a long-term care facility. The committee amendments update the bill’s title and synopsis to reflect this new provision.

The committee amendments correct a citation in the bill’s title and make other technical changes to existing law regarding grammar and style.