
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1403 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY BERNSTINE AND KEEFER, JUNE 14, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, JUNE 14, 2023

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of May 22, 1951 (P.L.317, No.69), entitled "An
2 act relating to the practice of professional nursing;
3 providing for the licensing of nurses and for the revocation
4 and suspension of such licenses, subject to appeal, and for
5 their reinstatement; providing for the renewal of such
6 licenses; regulating nursing in general; prescribing
7 penalties and repealing certain laws," further providing for
8 fees and qualifications for licensure, for education
9 programs, approved lists, distribution and student credits
10 where school removed from list and for certified registered
11 nurse practitioners and qualifications.

12 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
13 hereby enacts as follows:

14 Section 1. Sections 6(a) and (b)(2) and (3), 6.2(c) and
15 8.1(b)(1)(i) of the act of May 22, 1951 (P.L.317, No.69), known
16 as The Professional Nursing Law, are amended to read:

17 Section 6. Fees; Qualifications for Licensure.--(a) No
18 application for licensure as a registered nurse shall be
19 considered unless accompanied by a fee determined by the Board
20 by regulation. Every applicant, to be eligible for examination
21 for licensure as a registered nurse, shall furnish evidence
22 satisfactory to the Board that he or she is of good moral
23 character, has completed work equal to a standard high school

1 course as evaluated by the Board and has satisfactorily
2 completed [an approved] a Board-approved program of professional
3 nursing accredited by an accrediting agency approved by the
4 United States Department of Education. Approved programs shall
5 include baccalaureate degree, associate degree, diploma nursing
6 programs and programs in transition from approved diploma- to
7 degree-granting programs when all other requirements of the
8 Board have been met.

9 (b) An applicant applying for licensure as a dietitian-
10 nutritionist shall submit a written application on forms
11 provided by the Board evidencing and insuring to the
12 satisfaction of the Board that the applicant:

13 * * *

14 (2) Has received a baccalaureate or higher degree from a
15 Board-approved[, regionally accredited] college or university
16 accredited by an accrediting agency approved by the United
17 States Department of Education, including a major course of
18 study in human nutrition, food and nutrition, dietetics or food
19 systems management.

20 (3) Has completed a planned continuous preprofessional
21 experience component in dietetic practice of not less than nine
22 hundred (900) hours under the supervision of a registered
23 dietitian, a dietitian-nutritionist licensed under this act or
24 an individual with a doctoral degree conferred by a [regionally
25 accredited] college or university accredited by an accrediting
26 agency approved by the United States Department of Education
27 located in the United States with a major course of study in
28 human nutrition, food and nutrition, nutrition education,
29 dietetics or food systems management as approved by the Board.

30 * * *

1 Section 6.2. Education Programs, Approved Lists,
2 Distribution; Student Credits Where School Removed from List.--*
3 * *

4 (c) (1) Educational programs for the education of clinical
5 nurse specialists that are operated within a [regionally
6 accredited] college or university accredited by an accrediting
7 agency approved by the United States Department of Education and
8 where a master's degree, doctorate in nursing or a post-master's
9 degree is awarded, with a program concentration in the role of a
10 clinical nurse specialist, must be approved by [a national] an
11 accrediting [body] agency for nursing education programs
12 approved by the United States Department of Education recognized
13 by the board and shall be considered approved programs only for
14 the purposes of conferring certification to practice as a
15 clinical nurse specialist.

16 (2) Within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this
17 subsection, the board shall announce on its Internet website the
18 recognized [national] accrediting bodies for purposes of this
19 subsection.

20 (3) Within one hundred eighty (180) days of the effective
21 date of this subsection, education programs meeting these
22 requirements shall submit the name, address and telephone number
23 of the program; name and curriculum vitae of the program
24 director; and proof of accreditation to the board by [a
25 national] an accrediting [body] agency approved by the United
26 States Department of Education and recognized by the board for
27 inclusion on the list of approved clinical nurse specialist
28 education programs.

29 (4) Programs created more than six (6) months after the
30 effective date of this subsection shall submit the information

1 required in this subsection to the board for inclusion on the
2 list of approved programs.

3 Section 8.1. Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners;
4 Qualifications.--* * *

5 (b) (1) Beginning on the effective date of this section, a
6 nurse shall not qualify for initial certification by the board
7 under subsection (a) unless the nurse:

8 (i) is a graduate of [an accredited,] a board-approved
9 master's or post-master's nurse practitioner program which is
10 accredited by an accrediting agency approved by the United
11 States Department of Education; and

12 * * *

13 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.