

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1251 Session of
2024

INTRODUCED BY STEFANO, LAUGHLIN, J. WARD AND PENNYCUICK,
JUNE 7, 2024

REFERRED TO CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE,
JUNE 7, 2024

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)(1), (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]:

1 (1) Is of good moral character[, has]. In assessing the
2 moral character of an applicant with a criminal conviction, the
3 board shall conduct an individualized assessment in accordance
4 with 63 Pa.C.S. § 3113 (relating to consideration of criminal
5 convictions).

6 (2) Has completed work equal to a standard high school
7 course as evaluated by the Board [and has].

8 (3) Has satisfactorily completed [an approved] a Board-
9 approved program of professional nursing accredited by an
10 accrediting agency approved by the United States Department of
11 Education. Approved programs shall include baccalaureate degree,
12 associate degree, diploma nursing programs and programs in
13 transition from approved diploma- to degree-granting programs
14 when all other requirements of the Board have been met.

15 (b) An applicant applying for licensure as a dietitian-
16 nutritionist shall submit a written application on forms
17 provided by the Board evidencing and insuring to the
18 satisfaction of the Board that the applicant:

19 (1) Is of good moral character. In assessing the moral
20 character of an applicant with a criminal conviction, the board
21 shall conduct an individualized assessment in accordance with 63
22 Pa.C.S. § 3113.

23 (2) Has received a baccalaureate or higher degree from a
24 Board-approved[, regionally accredited] college or university
25 accredited by an accrediting agency approved by the United
26 States Department of Education, including a major course of
27 study in human nutrition, food and nutrition, dietetics or food
28 systems management.

29 (3) Has completed a planned continuous preprofessional
30 experience component in dietetic practice of not less than nine

1 hundred (900) hours under the supervision of a registered
2 dietitian, a dietitian-nutritionist licensed under this act or
3 an individual with a doctoral degree conferred by a [regionally
4 accredited] college or university accredited by an accrediting
5 agency approved by the United States Department of Education
6 located in the United States with a major course of study in
7 human nutrition, food and nutrition, nutrition education,
8 dietetics or food systems management as approved by the Board.

9 * * *

10 Section 6.2. Education Programs, Approved Lists,
11 Distribution; Student Credits Where School Removed from List.--*
12 * *

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

25 (2) Within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this
26 subsection, the board shall announce on its Internet website the
27 recognized [national] accrediting bodies for purposes of this
28 subsection.

29 (3) Within one hundred eighty (180) days of the effective
30 date of this subsection, education programs meeting these

1 requirements shall submit the name, address and telephone number
2 of the program; name and curriculum vitae of the program
3 director; and proof of accreditation to the board by [a
4 national] an accrediting [body] agency approved by the United
5 States Department of Education and recognized by the board for
6 inclusion on the list of approved clinical nurse specialist
7 education programs.

8 (4) Programs created more than six (6) months after the
9 effective date of this subsection shall submit the information
10 required in this subsection to the board for inclusion on the
11 list of approved programs.

12 Section 8.1. Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners;
13 Qualifications.--* * *

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

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

21 * * *

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