

House Bill 1041

By: Representatives Cooper of the 41st, Wilkinson of the 52nd, Rynders of the 152nd, Willard of the 49th, Maddox of the 172nd, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 26 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to the "Georgia Registered Professional Nurse Practice Act," so as to eliminate
3 obsolete language relating to graduate nurses; to require fingerprint record checks for
4 applicants for licensure as a registered professional nurse; to provide for related matters; to
5 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Article 1 of Chapter 26 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
9 "Georgia Registered Professional Nurse Practice Act," is amended by revising Code Section
10 43-26-6, relating to the use of the title by a licensed registered nurse or advanced practice
11 registered nurse, as follows:

12 "43-26-6.

13 (a) Any person who is licensed as a registered professional nurse shall have the right to use
14 the title 'registered professional nurse' and the abbreviation 'R.N.' Any person recognized
15 by the board as an advanced practice registered nurse shall have the right to use the title
16 'advanced practice registered nurse' and the abbreviation 'A.P.R.N.' No other person shall
17 assume such titles or use such abbreviations or any other words, letters, signs, or symbols
18 to indicate that such person is a registered professional nurse or an advanced practice
19 registered nurse in Georgia. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to repeal the
20 right of any person who is licensed as a registered professional nurse or recognized by the
21 board as an advanced practice registered nurse on June 30, 2006, to be licensed and to use
22 the title 'registered professional nurse' or to use the title 'advanced practice registered
23 nurse,' respectively.

24 (b) Any person holding a license to practice nursing as a licensed undergraduate nurse,
25 which license was issued by the board and valid on July 1, 1975, shall be deemed to be
26 licensed to practice nursing as a licensed undergraduate nurse under this article and shall

1 have the right to use the title 'licensed undergraduate nurse' and the abbreviation 'L.U.N.'
 2 No other person shall assume such title or use such abbreviation or any other words, letters,
 3 signs, or symbols to indicate that such person is licensed to practice nursing as a licensed
 4 undergraduate nurse. After July 1, 1975, there shall be no new certificates issued for
 5 licensure to practice nursing as a licensed undergraduate nurse.

6 ~~(c) An applicant who holds an examination temporary permit may use the title 'graduate~~
 7 ~~nurse' and the abbreviation 'G.N.' until the license to practice nursing as a registered~~
 8 ~~professional nurse has been issued. An applicant who fails the first examination may no~~
 9 ~~longer use the title 'graduate nurse' or abbreviation 'G.N.' An individual who is qualified~~
 10 ~~to use the title 'graduate nurse' must practice under the on-site supervision of a registered~~
 11 ~~professional nurse or physician.~~

12 ~~(d)~~ Any person who is licensed as a registered professional nurse shall identify that he or
 13 she is so licensed by displaying either the title 'registered professional nurse' or 'registered
 14 nurse,' the abbreviation 'R.N.,' the title 'advanced practice registered nurse,' or the
 15 abbreviation 'A.P.R.N.' on a name tag or other similar form of identification during times
 16 when such person is providing direct patient care. An advanced practice registered nurse
 17 shall meet the identification requirements of this subsection by displaying the title or
 18 abbreviation of his or her area of specialization."

19 SECTION 2.

20 Said article is further amended in Code Section 43-26-7, relating to requirements for
 21 licensure as a registered professional nurse, as follows:

22 "43-26-7.

23 (a) Any applicant who meets the requirements of this Code section shall be eligible for
 24 licensure as a registered professional nurse.

25 (b) An applicant for licensure by examination shall:

26 (1) Submit a completed written application and fee;

27 (2) Have graduated from a nursing education program, ~~approved by this board, or which~~
 28 that meets criteria similar to, and not less stringent than, those established by this board;

29 (3) Pass a board recognized licensing examination; provided, however, that such
 30 examination may not be taken prior to graduation from the nursing education program;
 31 and

32 (4) Have satisfactory results from a fingerprint record check report conducted by the
 33 Georgia Crime Information Center and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as
 34 determined by the board. Application for a license under this Code section shall
 35 constitute express consent and authorization for the board or its representative to perform
 36 a criminal background check. Each applicant who submits an application to the board

1 for licensure by examination agrees to provide the board with any and all information
 2 necessary to run a criminal background check, including, but not limited to, classifiable
 3 sets of fingerprints. The applicant shall be responsible for all fees associated with the
 4 performance of such background check; and

5 ~~(4)~~(5) Meet such other criteria as established by the board.

6 (c) An applicant for licensure by endorsement shall:

7 (1) Submit a completed written application and fee;

8 (2) Have passed a board recognized licensing examination following graduation from ~~the~~
 9 a nursing education program that meets criteria similar to, and not less than, those
 10 established by the board;

11 (3) Submit verification of initial and current licensure in any other licensing jurisdiction
 12 administering a board recognized licensing examination;

13 (4) Have practiced nursing as a registered professional nurse for a period of time as
 14 determined by the board or have graduated from a nursing education program within the
 15 four years immediately preceding the date of the application; ~~and~~

16 (5) Have satisfactory results from a fingerprint record check report conducted by the
 17 Georgia Crime Information Center and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as
 18 determined by the board. Application for a license under this Code section shall
 19 constitute express consent and authorization for the board or its representative to perform
 20 a criminal background check. Each applicant who submits an application to the board
 21 for licensure by examination agrees to provide the board with any and all information
 22 necessary to run a criminal background check, including, but not limited to, classifiable
 23 sets of fingerprints. The applicant shall be responsible for all fees associated with the
 24 performance of such background check; and

25 ~~(5)~~(6) Meet such other criteria as established by the board.

26 (d) An applicant for reinstatement who has previously held a valid license in Georgia shall:

27 (1) Submit a completed written application and fee;

28 (2) Have practiced nursing as a registered professional nurse for a period of time as
 29 determined by the board or have graduated from a nursing education program that meets
 30 criteria similar to, and not less than, those established by the board within the four years
 31 immediately preceding the date of the application; ~~and~~

32 (3) Have satisfactory results from a fingerprint record check report conducted by the
 33 Georgia Crime Information Center and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as
 34 determined by the board. Application for a license under this Code section shall
 35 constitute express consent and authorization for the board or its representative to perform
 36 a criminal background check. Each applicant who submits an application to the board
 37 for licensure by examination agrees to provide the board with any and all information

1 necessary to run a criminal background check, including, but not limited to, classifiable
2 sets of fingerprints. The applicant shall be responsible for all fees associated with the
3 performance of such background check; and
4 ~~(3)~~(4) Meet such other criteria as established by the board."

5 **SECTION 3.**
6 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.