

SENATE SUBSTITUTE TO HB 1040

**AS PASSED SENATE**

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

**AN ACT**

1 To amend Code Section 43-26-12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
 2 exceptions to the operation of the "Georgia Registered Professional Nurse Practice Act," so  
 3 as to provide that the performance of health maintenance activities by a designated caregiver  
 4 to a proxy caregiver under certain conditions shall not require licensure as a registered  
 5 professional nurse; to provide for definitions; to provide for related matters; to repeal  
 6 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Code Section 43-26-12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to exceptions to  
 10 the operation of the "Georgia Registered Professional Nurse Practice Act," is amended by  
 11 revising subsection (a) as follows:

12 "(a) No provision in this article shall be construed to require licensure in Georgia as a  
 13 registered professional nurse in:

- 14 (1) The practice of nursing by students that is an integral part of a curriculum in a board  
 15 approved nursing education program leading to initial licensure;
- 16 (2) The rendering of assistance by anyone in the case of an emergency or disaster;
- 17 (3) The incidental care of the sick by members of the family, friends, or persons  
 18 primarily utilized as housekeepers, provided that such care does not constitute the  
 19 practice of nursing within the meaning of this article;
- 20 (4) Caring for the sick in accordance with tenets or practices of any church or religious  
 21 denomination which teaches reliance upon spiritual means through prayer for healing;
- 22 (5) The performance of auxiliary services in the care of patients when such care and  
 23 activities do not require the knowledge and skill required of a person practicing nursing  
 24 as a registered professional nurse and when such care and activities are performed under  
 25 orders or directions of a licensed physician, licensed dentist, licensed podiatrist, or person  
 26 licensed to practice nursing as a registered professional nurse;

27 (6) The practice of nursing as a registered professional nurse, by a person licensed so to  
 28 practice in another state, who is employed by the United States government or any  
 29 bureau, division, or agency thereof while in the discharge of that person's official duties;

30 (7) The practice of nursing as a registered professional nurse, by a person currently  
 31 licensed so to practice in another state, who is employed by an individual, agency, or  
 32 corporation located in another state and whose employment responsibilities include  
 33 transporting patients into, out of, or through this state for a period not to exceed 24 hours;  
 34 and

35 (8) The practice of nursing as a registered professional nurse by a person currently  
 36 licensed so to practice in another state, who is visiting Georgia as a nonresident, in order  
 37 to provide specific, nonclinical, short-term, time limited services including, but not  
 38 limited to, consultation, accreditation site visits, and the participation in continuing  
 39 education programs; and

40 (9)(A) The performance of health maintenance activities by a proxy caregiver pursuant  
 41 to a written plan of care for a disabled individual when:

42 (i) Such individual or a person legally authorized to act on behalf of such individual  
 43 has executed a written informed consent designating a proxy caregiver and delegating  
 44 responsibility to such proxy caregiver to receive training and to provide health  
 45 maintenance activities to such disabled individual pursuant to the written orders of an  
 46 attending physician, or an advanced practice registered nurse or physician assistant  
 47 working under a nurse protocol agreement or job description, respectively, pursuant  
 48 to Code Section 43-34-25 or 43-34-23;

49 (ii) Such health maintenance activities are provided outside of a hospital or nursing  
 50 home and are not provided by a medicare-certified home health agency or hospice  
 51 organization and if alternative sources are available, Medicaid is the payor of last  
 52 resort; and

53 (iii) The written plan of care implements the written orders of the attending  
 54 physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant and specifies the  
 55 frequency of training and evaluation requirements for the proxy caregiver, including  
 56 additional training when changes in the written plan of care necessitate added duties  
 57 for which such proxy caregiver has not previously been trained. A written plan of  
 58 care may be established by a registered professional nurse.

59 Rules, regulations, and policies regarding training for proxy caregivers pursuant to this  
 60 paragraph shall be promulgated by the Department of Behavioral Health and  
 61 Developmental Disabilities or the Department of Community Health, as applicable.

62 (B) An attending physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant  
 63 whose orders or written plan of care provide for the provision of health maintenance

64 activities to a disabled person shall not be vicariously liable for a proxy caregiver's  
 65 negligent performance of health maintenance activities unless the proxy caregiver is an  
 66 employee of the physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant.  
 67 Any person who trains a proxy caregiver to perform health maintenance activities for  
 68 a disabled individual may be held liable for negligently training that proxy caregiver  
 69 if such training deviated from the applicable standard of care and was a proximate  
 70 cause of injury to the disabled individual.

71 (C) For purposes of this paragraph, the term:

72 (i) 'Disabled individual' means an individual that has a physical or mental impairment  
 73 that substantially limits one or more major life activities and who meets the criteria  
 74 for a disability under state or federal law.

75 (ii) 'Health maintenance activities' are limited to those activities that, but for a  
 76 disability, a person could reasonably be expected to do for himself or herself. Such  
 77 activities are typically taught by a registered professional nurse, but may be taught by  
 78 an attending physician, advanced practice registered nurse, physician assistant, or  
 79 directly to a patient and are part of ongoing care. Health maintenance activities are  
 80 those activities that do not include complex care such as administration of intravenous  
 81 medications, central line maintenance, and complex wound care; do not require  
 82 complex observations or critical decisions; can be safely performed and have  
 83 reasonably precise, unchanging directions; and have outcomes or results that are  
 84 reasonably predictable. Health maintenance activities conducted pursuant to this  
 85 paragraph shall not be considered the practice of nursing.

86 (iii) 'Proxy caregiver' means an unlicensed person who has been selected by a  
 87 disabled individual or a person legally authorized to act on behalf of such individual  
 88 to serve as such individual's proxy caregiver, provided that such person shall receive  
 89 training and shall demonstrate the necessary knowledge and skills to perform  
 90 documented health maintenance activities, including identified specialized  
 91 procedures, for such individual.

92 (iv) 'Training' means teaching proxy caregivers the necessary knowledge and skills  
 93 to perform health maintenance activities for disabled individuals. Good faith efforts  
 94 by an attending physician, advanced practice registered nurse, physician assistant, or  
 95 registered professional nurse to provide training to a proxy caregiver to perform  
 96 health maintenance activities shall not be construed to be professional delegation."

97 **SECTION 2.**

98 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.