

Senate Bill 282

By: Senators Unterman of the 45th, Goggans of the 7th and Carter of the 1st

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 26 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 nurses, so as to provide for a multistate compact, short title, findings, purposes, and
3 definitions; to provide for multistate licensures to practice nursing as a registered nurse and
4 to provide for qualifications, sanctions, practices, and procedures relating thereto; to provide
5 for administrators and their powers and functions and practice limitations; to provide for
6 license recognition; to provide for application and license restrictions; to provide for change
7 of residence; to provide for reports, investigations, and adverse actions; to provide additional
8 powers to the Georgia Board of Nursing; to provide for a coordinated licensure information
9 system and confidentiality and expungement relating thereto; to provide for immunity from
10 liability; to provide for effective dates and amendment of and withdrawal from the compact;
11 to provide for other agreements; to provide for construction and severability; to provide for
12 dispute settlement; to provide for an effective date and automatic repeal; to change the
13 provisions relating to definitions for the "Georgia Registered Professional Nurse Practice
14 Act"; to change the powers of the Georgia Board of Nursing; to change provisions regarding
15 use of certain titles and identification requirements; to change provisions relating to denial
16 or revocation of licenses; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

18 **SECTION 1.**

19 Chapter 26 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to nurses, is
20 amended by adding a new article to read as follows:

21 "ARTICLE 4

22 43-26-70.

23 (a) This article shall be known as the 'Nurse Licensure Compact.'

24 (b) The Nurse Licensure Compact as set forth in this article is hereby enacted into law and
25 entered into with all other jurisdictions legally joining therein.

26 43-26-71.

27 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

28 (1) The health and safety of the public are affected by the degree of compliance with and
 29 the effectiveness of enforcement activities related to state nurses licensure laws;

30 (2) Violations of nurse licensure and other laws requiring the practice of nursing may
 31 result in injury or harm to the public;

32 (3) Expanded mobility of nurses and the use of advanced communication technologies
 33 as part of Georgia's health care delivery system require greater coordination and
 34 cooperation among states in the areas of nurse licensure and regulation;

35 (4) New practice modalities and technology make compliance with individual state nurse
 36 licensure difficult; and

37 (5) The current system of duplicative licensure for nurses practicing in multiple states
 38 is cumbersome and redundant to both nurses and states.

39 (b) The General Assembly enters into a multistate nurse license compact for the purposes
 40 of:

41 (1) Facilitating the state's responsibility to protect the public's health and safety;

42 (2) Ensuring and encouraging the cooperation of party states in the areas of nurse
 43 licensure and regulation;

44 (3) Facilitating the exchange of information between party states in the areas of nurse
 45 regulation, investigation, and adverse actions;

46 (4) Promoting compliance with the laws governing the practice of nursing in each
 47 jurisdiction; and

48 (5) Investing the state with the authority to hold a nurse accountable for meeting all the
 49 state practice laws when the patient is located in the state where care is rendered through
 50 the mutual recognition of party state licenses.

51 43-26-72.

52 As used in this article, the term:

53 (1) 'Adverse action' means a home or remote state action.

54 (2) 'Alternative program' means a voluntary, nondisciplinary monitoring program
 55 approved by the Georgia Board of Nursing.

56 (3) 'Compact' means the Nurse Licensure Compact provided for by this article.

57 (4) 'Coordinated licensure information system' means an integrated process for
 58 collecting, storing, and sharing information on nurse licensure and enforcement activities
 59 related to nurse licensure laws which is administered by a nonprofit organization
 60 composed of and controlled by state nurse licensing boards.

61 (5) 'Current significant investigative information' means:

- 62 (A) Investigative information that the Georgia Board of Nursing, after a preliminary
63 inquiry that includes notification and an opportunity for the nurse to respond, has
64 reason to believe is not groundless and, if proved true, would indicate more than a
65 minor infraction; or
- 66 (B) Investigative information that indicates that the nurse represents an immediate
67 threat to public health and safety regardless of whether the nurse has been notified and
68 had an opportunity to respond.
- 69 (6) 'Home state' means the party state which is the nurse's primary state of residence.
- 70 (7) 'Home state action' means any administrative, civil, equitable, or criminal action
71 permitted by the home state's laws which are imposed on a nurse by the home state's
72 licensing board or other authority, including actions against an individual's license such
73 as revocation, suspension, probation, or any other action which affects a nurse's
74 authorization to practice.
- 75 (8) 'Licensing board' means the party state regulatory body responsible for issuing nurse
76 licenses.
- 77 (9) 'Multistate licensure privilege' means current official authority from a remote state
78 permitting the practice of nursing as a registered nurse. All party states have the
79 authority, in accordance with existing state due process law, to take actions against the
80 nurse's privilege such as revocation, suspension, probation, or any other action which
81 affects a nurse's authorization to practice.
- 82 (10) 'Nurse' means a registered nurse as defined by each party state's practice law.
- 83 (11) 'Party state' means any state that has adopted this compact.
- 84 (12) 'Remote state' means a party state, other than the home state:
- 85 (A) Where the patient is located at the time nursing care is provided; or
86 (B) In the case of the practice of nursing not involving a patient, in such party state
87 where the recipient of nursing practice is located.
- 88 (13) 'Remote state action' means:
- 89 (A) Any administrative, civil, equitable, or criminal action permitted by a remote
90 state's laws which are imposed on a nurse by the remote state's licensing board or other
91 authority, including actions against an individual's multistate licensure privilege to
92 practice in the remote state; and
- 93 (B) Cease and desist and other injunctive or equitable orders issued by remote states
94 or the licensing boards thereof.
- 95 (14) 'State' means a state, territory, or possession of the United States, the District of
96 Columbia, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.
- 97 (15) 'State practice laws' means those individual party state laws and regulations that
98 govern the practice of nursing, define the scope of nursing practice, and create the

99 methods and grounds for imposing discipline. Such term shall not include the initial
100 qualifications for licensure or requirements necessary to obtain and retain a license,
101 except for qualifications or requirements of the home state.

102 43-26-73.

103 (a) A license to practice registered nursing issued by a home state to a resident in that state
104 will be recognized by each party state as authorizing a multistate licensure privilege to
105 practice as a registered nurse in such party state. In order to obtain or retain a license, an
106 applicant shall meet the home state's qualifications for licensure and license renewal as well
107 as all other applicable state laws.

108 (b) Party states may, in accordance with state due process laws, limit or revoke the
109 multistate licensure privilege of any nurse to practice in their state and may take any other
110 actions under their applicable state laws necessary to protect the health and safety of their
111 citizens. If a party state takes such action, it shall promptly notify the administrator of the
112 coordinated licensure information system. The administrator of the coordinated licensure
113 information system shall promptly notify the home state of any such actions by remote
114 states.

115 (c) Every nurse practicing in a party state shall comply with the state practice laws of the
116 state in which the patient is located at the time care is rendered. In addition, the practice
117 of nursing shall not be limited to patient care but shall include all nursing practice as
118 defined by the state practice laws of a party state. The practice of nursing will subject a
119 nurse to the jurisdiction of the nurse licensing board and the courts, as well as the laws, in
120 that party state.

121 (d) This compact shall not affect additional requirements imposed by states for advanced
122 practice registered nursing.

123 (e) Individuals not residing in a party state shall continue to be able to apply for nurse
124 licensure as provided for under the laws of each party state. However, the license granted
125 to these individuals will not be recognized as granting the privilege to practice nursing in
126 any other party state unless explicitly agreed to by that party state.

127 43-26-74.

128 (a) Upon application for a license, the licensing board in a party state shall ascertain,
129 through the coordinated licensure information system, whether the applicant has ever held,
130 or is the holder of, a license issued by any other state, whether there are any restrictions on
131 the multistate licensure privilege, and whether any other adverse action by any state has
132 been taken against the license.

133 (b) A nurse in a party state shall hold licensure in only one party state at a time, issued by
134 the home state.

135 (c) A nurse who intends to change his or her primary state of residence may apply for
136 licensure in the new home state in advance of such change. However, new licenses shall
137 not be issued by a party state until after a nurse provides evidence of change in primary
138 state of residence satisfactory to the new home state's licensing board.

139 (d) When a nurse changes primary state of residency by:

140 (1) Moving between two party states and obtains a license from the new home state, the
141 license from the former home state is no longer valid;

142 (2) Moving from a nonparty state to a party state and obtaining a license from the new
143 home state, the individual state license issued by the nonparty state shall not be affected
144 and shall remain in full force if so provided by the laws of the nonparty state; and

145 (3) Moving from a party state to a nonparty state, the license issued by the prior home
146 state converts to an individual state license, valid only in the former home state, without
147 the multistate licensure privilege to practice in other party states.

148 43-26-75.

149 In addition to the general provisions described in Code Section 43-26-73, the following
150 provisions apply:

151 (1) The licensing board of a remote state shall promptly report to the administrator of the
152 coordinated licensure information system any remote state actions, including the factual
153 and legal basis for such action, if known. The licensing board of a remote state shall also
154 promptly report any significant current investigative information yet to result in a remote
155 state action. The administrator of the coordinated licensure information system shall
156 promptly notify the home state of any such reports;

157 (2) The licensing board of a party state shall have the authority to complete any pending
158 investigations for a nurse who changes his or her primary state of residence during the
159 course of such investigations. It shall also have the authority to take any appropriate
160 actions and shall promptly report the conclusions of such investigations to the
161 administrator of the coordinated licensure information system. The administrator of the
162 coordinated licensure information system shall promptly notify the new home state of any
163 such actions;

164 (3) A remote state may take adverse action affecting the multistate licensure privilege
165 to practice within that party state. However, only the home state shall have the power to
166 impose adverse action against the license issued by the home state;

167 (4) For purposes of imposing adverse action, the licensing board of the home state shall
168 give the same priority and effect to reported conduct received from a remote state as it

169 would if such conduct had occurred within the home state. In so doing, it shall apply its
 170 own state laws to determine appropriate action;

171 (5) The home state may take adverse action based on the factual findings of the remote
 172 state, so long as each state follows its own procedures for imposing such adverse action;
 173 and

174 (6) Nothing in this compact shall override a party state's decision that participation in an
 175 alternative program may be used in lieu of licensure action and that such participation
 176 shall remain nonpublic if required by the party state's laws. Party states shall require
 177 nurses who enter any alternative programs to agree not to practice in any other party state
 178 during the term of the alternative program without prior authorization from such other
 179 party state.

180 43-26-76.

181 Notwithstanding any other powers, party state nurse licensing boards shall have the
 182 authority to:

183 (1) If otherwise permitted by state law, recover from the affected nurse the costs of
 184 investigations and disposition of cases resulting from any adverse action taken against
 185 that nurse;

186 (2) Issue subpoenas for both hearings and investigations which require the attendance
 187 and testimony of witnesses and the production of evidence. Subpoenas issued by a nurse
 188 licensing board in a party state for the attendance and testimony of witnesses or the
 189 production of evidence from another party state, or both, shall be enforced in the latter
 190 state by any court of competent jurisdiction, according to the practice and procedure of
 191 that court applicable to subpoenas issued in proceedings pending before it. The issuing
 192 authority shall pay any witness fees, travel expenses, mileage, and other fees required by
 193 the service statutes of the state where the witnesses or evidence, or both, are located;

194 (3) Issue cease and desist orders to limit or revoke a nurse's authority to practice in their
 195 state; and

196 (4) Promulgate uniform rules and regulations as provided for in subsection (c) of Code
 197 Section 43-26-78.

198 43-26-77.

199 (a) All party states shall participate in a cooperative effort to create a coordinated data base
 200 of all licensed registered nurses. This system shall include information on the licensure and
 201 disciplinary history of each nurse, as contributed by party states, to assist in the
 202 coordination of nurse licensure and enforcement efforts.

203 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all party states' licensing boards shall
204 promptly report adverse actions, actions against multistate licensure privileges, any current
205 significant investigative information yet to result in adverse action, denials of applications,
206 and the reasons for such denials to the coordinated licensure information system.

207 (c) Current significant investigative information shall be transmitted through the
208 coordinated licensure information system only to party state licensing boards.

209 (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all party states' licensing boards
210 contributing information to the coordinated licensure information system may designate
211 information that may not be shared with nonparty states or disclosed to other entities or
212 individuals without the express permission of the contributing state.

213 (e) Any personally identifiable information obtained by a party states' licensing board from
214 the coordinated licensure information system may not be shared with nonparty states or
215 disclosed to other entities or individuals except to the extent permitted by the laws of the
216 party state contributing the information.

217 (f) Any information contributed to the coordinated licensure information system that is
218 subsequently required to be expunged by the laws of the party state contributing that
219 information shall also be expunged from the coordinated licensure information system.

220 (g) The compact administrators, acting jointly with each other and in consultation with the
221 administrator of the coordinated licensure information system, shall formulate necessary
222 and proper procedures for the identification, collection, and exchange of information under
223 this compact.

224 43-26-78.

225 (a) The division director of the professional licensing boards of Georgia shall be the
226 administrator of this compact.

227 (b) The compact administrator of each party state shall furnish to the compact
228 administrator of each other party state any information and documents including, but not
229 limited to, a uniform data set of investigations, identifying information, licensure data, and
230 disclosable alternative program participation information to facilitate the administration of
231 this compact.

232 (c) Compact administrators shall have the authority to develop uniform rules to facilitate
233 and coordinate implementation of this compact. These uniform rules shall be adopted by
234 party states under the authority invested under paragraph (4) of Code Section 43-26-76.

235 43-26-79.

236 No party state, or the officers or employees or agents of a party state's nurse licensing
 237 board, who acts in accordance with the provisions of this compact shall be liable on
 238 account of any act or omission in good faith while engaged in the performance of their
 239 duties under this compact. Good faith in this article shall not include willful misconduct,
 240 gross negligence, or recklessness.

241 43-26-80.

242 (a) This compact shall enter into force and become effective as to any state when it has
 243 been enacted into the laws of that state. Any party state may withdraw from this compact
 244 by enacting a statute repealing the same but no such withdrawal shall take effect until six
 245 months after the withdrawing state has given notice of the withdrawal to the executive
 246 heads of all other party states.

247 (b) No withdrawal shall affect the validity or applicability by the licensing boards of states
 248 remaining party to the compact of any report of adverse action occurring prior to the
 249 withdrawal.

250 (c) Nothing contained in this compact shall be construed to invalidate or prevent any nurse
 251 licensure agreement or other cooperative arrangement between a party state and a nonparty
 252 state that is made in accordance with the other provisions of this compact.

253 (d) This compact may be amended by the party states. No amendment to this compact
 254 shall become effective and binding upon the party states unless and until it is enacted into
 255 the laws of all party states.

256 43-26-81.

257 (a) This compact shall be liberally construed so as to effectuate the purposes thereof. The
 258 provisions of this compact shall be severable, and, if any phrase, clause, sentence, or
 259 provision of this compact is declared to be contrary to the constitution of any party state
 260 or of the United States or the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person, or
 261 circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this compact and the
 262 applicability thereof to any government, agency, person, or circumstance shall not be
 263 affected thereby. If this compact shall be held contrary to the constitution of any state party
 264 thereto, the compact shall remain in full force and effect as to the remaining party states
 265 and in full force and effect as to the party state affected as to all severable matters.

266 (b) In the event party states find a need for settling disputes arising under this compact:

267 (1) The party states may submit the issues in dispute to an arbitration panel which shall
 268 be composed of an individual appointed by the compact administrator in the home state;
 269 an individual appointed by the compact administrator in each remote state involved; and

270 an individual mutually agreed upon by the compact administrators of all the party states
 271 involved in the dispute; and
 272 (2) The decision of a majority of the arbitrators shall be final and binding.

273 43-26-82.

274 (a) This article shall become effective on January 1, 2013."

275 **SECTION 2.**

276 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 43-26-3, relating to definitions for
 277 the "Georgia Registered Professional Nurse Practice Act," as follows:

278 "43-26-3.

279 As used in this article, the term:

280 (1) 'Advanced nursing practice' means practice by a registered professional nurse who
 281 meets those educational, practice, certification requirements, or any combination of such
 282 requirements, as specified by the board and includes certified nurse midwives, nurse
 283 practitioners, certified registered nurse anesthetists, clinical nurse specialists in
 284 psychiatric/mental health, and others recognized by the board.

285 (1.1) 'Advanced practice registered nurse' means a registered professional nurse licensed
 286 under this chapter who is recognized by the board as having met the requirements
 287 established by the board to engage in advanced nursing practice and who holds a master's
 288 degree or other graduate degree from an approved nursing education program and
 289 national board certification in his or her area of specialty, or a person who was recognized
 290 as an advanced practice registered nurse by the board on or before June 30, 2006. This
 291 paragraph shall not be construed to require a certified registered nurse anesthetist who
 292 graduated from an approved nurse anesthetist educational program prior to January 1,
 293 1999, to hold a master's degree or other graduate degree.

294 (1.2) 'Approved nursing education program' located in this state means a nursing
 295 education program approved by the board as meeting criteria established by the board.
 296 An 'approved nursing education program' located outside this state means a nursing
 297 education program that the board has determined to meet criteria similar to and not less
 298 stringent than criteria established by the board. In order to be approved by the board, a
 299 nursing education program must be one that is offered by:

- 300 (A) A unit of the University System of Georgia accredited by the Commission on
 301 Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools;
 302 (B) An institution of the Technical College System of Georgia accredited by the
 303 Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools;

304 (C) A nonprofit postsecondary institution of higher education that is accredited by a
305 regional accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education;
306 or

307 (D) A proprietary institution of higher education that is accredited by a regional
308 accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education.

309 (2) 'Board' means the Georgia Board of Nursing created in Code Section 43-26-4.

310 (2.1) 'Compact' means the Nurse Licensure Compact provided in Article 4 of this
311 chapter.

312 (2.2) 'Compact administrator' shall be the division director of the professional licensing
313 boards of Georgia.

314 (3) 'Consumer member' means a United States citizen and Georgia resident who is
315 knowledgeable about consumer health concerns, does not derive that person's primary
316 livelihood from the practice of nursing, and shall neither be, nor ever have been, a health
317 care provider or enrolled in any health related educational program.

318 (4) 'License' means a current document, issued by the board, permitting a person to
319 practice nursing as a registered professional nurse or a licensed undergraduate nurse. For
320 purposes of discipline, such term includes the multistate licensure privilege to practice
321 granted by the compact.

322 (5) 'Licensure' means the bestowing of a current license by the board permitting a person
323 to practice nursing as a registered professional nurse or a licensed undergraduate nurse.

324 (6) 'Practice nursing' or 'practice of nursing' means to perform for compensation or the
325 performance for compensation of any act in the care and counsel of the ill, injured, or
326 infirm, and in the promotion and maintenance of health with individuals, groups, or both
327 throughout the life span. It requires substantial specialized knowledge of the humanities,
328 natural sciences, social sciences, and nursing theory as a basis for assessment, nursing
329 diagnosis, planning, intervention, and evaluation. It includes, but is not limited to,
330 provision of nursing care; administration, supervision, evaluation, or any combination
331 thereof, of nursing practice; teaching; counseling; the administration of medications and
332 treatments as prescribed by a physician practicing medicine in accordance with Article
333 2 of Chapter 34 of this title, or a dentist practicing dentistry in accordance with Chapter
334 11 of this title, or a podiatrist practicing podiatry in accordance with Chapter 35 of this
335 title.

336 (7) 'Practice nursing as a licensed undergraduate nurse' means to practice nursing by
337 performing for compensation selected acts in the care of the ill, injured, or infirm under
338 the direction of a registered professional nurse, a physician practicing medicine in
339 accordance with Article 2 of Chapter 34 of this title, a dentist practicing dentistry in

340 accordance with Chapter 11 of this title, or a podiatrist practicing podiatry in accordance
341 with Chapter 35 of this title.

342 (8) 'Practice nursing as a registered professional nurse' means to practice nursing by
343 performing for compensation any of the following:

344 (A) Assessing the health status of individuals, groups, or both throughout the life span;

345 (B) Establishing a nursing diagnosis;

346 (C) Establishing nursing goals to meet identified health care needs;

347 (D) Planning, implementing, and evaluating nursing care;

348 (E) Providing for safe and effective nursing care rendered directly or indirectly;

349 (F) Managing and supervising the practice of nursing;

350 (G) Collaborating with other members of the health care team in the management of
351 care;

352 (H) Teaching the theory and practice of nursing;

353 (I) Administering, ordering, and dispensing medications, diagnostic studies, and
354 medical treatments authorized by protocol, when such acts are authorized by other
355 general laws and such acts are in conformity with those laws;

356 (J) Administering medications and treatments as prescribed by a physician practicing
357 medicine in accordance with Article 2 of Chapter 34 of this title, a dentist practicing
358 dentistry in accordance with Chapter 11 of this title, or a podiatrist practicing podiatry
359 in accordance with Chapter 35 of this title; or

360 (K) Performing any other nursing act in the care and counsel of the ill, injured, or
361 infirm, and in the promotion and maintenance of health with individuals, groups, or
362 both throughout the life span.

363 (8.1) 'Privilege to practice' means the authorization to practice nursing in this state as
364 described in the compact.

365 (9) 'Registered professional nurse' means a person who is authorized by a license issued
366 under this article or privileged under the compact to practice nursing as a registered
367 professional nurse.

368 **SECTION 3.**

369 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 43-26-5, relating to general powers
370 of the board, as follows:

371 "(a) The board shall:

372 (1) Be responsible for the enforcement of the provisions of this article and shall be
373 specifically granted all of the necessary duties, powers, and authority to carry out this
374 responsibility;

- 375 (2) Be authorized to draft, adopt, amend, repeal, and enforce such rules as it deems
376 necessary for the administration and enforcement of this article in the protection of public
377 health, safety, and welfare;
- 378 (3) Enforce qualifications for licensure;
- 379 (4) Develop and enforce reasonable and uniform standards for nursing education and
380 nursing practice;
- 381 (5) Periodically evaluate nursing education programs and approve such programs as meet
382 the board's requirements;
- 383 (6) Deny or withdraw approval from noncompliant nursing education programs;
- 384 (7) License duly qualified applicants by examination, endorsement, or reinstatement;
- 385 (8) Be authorized to issue temporary permits;
- 386 (9) Renew licenses of registered professional nurses and licensed undergraduate nurses
387 in accordance with this article;
- 388 (10) Be authorized to set standards for competency of licensees continuing in or
389 returning to practice;
- 390 (11) Set standards for and regulate advanced nursing practice;
- 391 (12) Be authorized to enact rules and regulations for registered professional nurses in
392 their performing acts under a nurse protocol as authorized in Code Section 43-34-23 and
393 enact rules and regulations for advanced practice registered nurses in performing acts as
394 authorized in Code Section 43-34-25;
- 395 (13) Implement the disciplinary process;
- 396 (14) Be authorized to issue orders when a license is surrendered to the board while a
397 complaint, investigation, or disciplinary action against such license is pending;
- 398 (15) Issue a limited license to practice nursing subject to such terms and conditions as
399 the board may impose;
- 400 (16) Provide consultation and conduct conferences, forums, studies, and research on
401 nursing education and nursing practice;
- 402 (17) Approve the selection of a qualified person to serve as executive director;
- 403 (18) Be authorized to appoint standing or ad hoc committees as necessary to inform and
404 make recommendations to the board about issues and concerns and to facilitate
405 communication amongst the board, licensees, and the community;
- 406 (19) Maintain membership in the national organization which develops and regulates the
407 nursing licensing examination;
- 408 (20) Be authorized to collect data regarding existing nursing resources in Georgia and
409 coordinate planning for nursing education and nursing practice;
- 410 (21) Determine fees; and

411 (22) Adopt a seal which shall be in the care of the executive director and shall be affixed
412 only in such a manner as prescribed by the board;

413 (23) Determine whether a right or obligation on license holders applies to nurses
414 privileged to practice in this state under a license by a state that is a party to the compact
415 unless that determination is inconsistent with the compact;

416 (24) Be responsible for taking action against registered professional nurses privileged to
417 practice in this state under a license issued by a state that is a party to the multistate
418 compact as authorized by the compact. The action shall be taken in accordance with the
419 same procedures for taking action against a registered professional nurse licensed by
420 Georgia;

421 (25) Provide, for a reasonable fee, a registered professional nurse licensed in Georgia
422 with a copy of information regarding the nurse maintained by the coordinated licensure
423 information system of the compact;

424 (26) Disclose personally identifiable information about the registered professional nurse,
425 including social security number, to the coordinated licensure information system of the
426 compact. The coordinated licensure information system shall not share personally
427 identifiable information with a state not a party to the compact unless the state agrees not
428 to disclose that information to any other person; and

429 (27) Enter into multistate compacts, contracts, or agreements to facilitate the practice and
430 regulation of nursing in this state."

431 **SECTION 4.**

432 Said chapter is further amended by revising subsections (a) and (c) of Code Section 43-26-6,
433 relating to use of the title of registered nurse, as follows:

434 "(a) Any person who is licensed as a registered professional nurse or has a privilege to
435 practice under the compact shall have the right to use the title 'registered professional nurse'
436 and the abbreviation 'R.N.' Any person recognized by the board as an advanced practice
437 registered nurse shall have the right to use the title 'advanced practice registered nurse' and
438 the abbreviation 'A.P.R.N.' No other person shall assume such titles or use such
439 abbreviations or any other words, letters, signs, or symbols to indicate that such person is
440 a registered professional nurse or an advanced practice registered nurse in Georgia.
441 Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to repeal the right of any person who is
442 licensed as a registered professional nurse or recognized by the board as an advanced
443 practice registered nurse on June 30, 2006, to be licensed and to use the title 'registered
444 professional nurse' or to use the title 'advanced practice registered nurse,' respectively."

445 "(c) Any person who is licensed as a registered professional nurse or has a privilege to
446 practice under the compact shall identify that he or she is so licensed or privileged by

447 displaying either the title 'registered professional nurse' or 'registered nurse,' the
 448 abbreviation 'R.N.,' the title 'advanced practice registered nurse,' or the abbreviation
 449 'A.P.R.N.' on a name tag or other similar form of identification during times when such
 450 person is providing direct patient care. An advanced practice registered nurse shall meet
 451 the identification requirements of this subsection by displaying the title or abbreviation of
 452 his or her area of specialization."

453 **SECTION 5.**

454 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 43-26-11, relating to denial or
 455 revocation of licenses, as follows:

456 "43-26-11.

457 In addition to the authority granted in Code Section 43-1-19, the board shall have the
 458 authority to refuse to grant a license to an applicant, to revoke the license of a licensee, or
 459 to discipline a licensee practicing under a Georgia license or who has a privilege to practice
 460 under the compact upon a finding by the board that the applicant or licensee has:

461 (1) Been convicted of any felony, crime involving moral turpitude, or crime violating a
 462 federal or state law relating to controlled substances or dangerous drugs in the courts of
 463 this state, any other state, territory, or country, or in the courts of the United States,
 464 including but not limited to a plea of nolo contendere entered to the charge; or

465 (2)(A) Displayed an inability to practice nursing as a registered professional nurse or
 466 licensed undergraduate nurse with reasonable skill and safety due to illness, use of
 467 alcohol, drugs, narcotics, chemicals, or any other type of material, or as a result of any
 468 mental or physical condition.

469 (B) In enforcement of this paragraph, the board may, upon reasonable grounds, require
 470 a licensee or applicant to submit to a mental or physical examination by a board
 471 approved health care professional. The results of such examination shall be admissible
 472 in any hearing before the board, notwithstanding any claim of privilege under a
 473 contrary law or rule. Every person who is licensed to practice nursing as a registered
 474 professional nurse or licensed undergraduate nurse in this state or who shall file an
 475 application shall be deemed to have given such person's consent to submit to such
 476 mental or physical examination and to have waived all objections to the admissibility
 477 of the results in any hearing before the board upon the grounds that the same constitutes
 478 a privileged communication. If a licensee or applicant fails to submit to such an
 479 examination when properly directed to do so by the board, unless such failure was due
 480 to circumstances beyond that person's control, the board may enter a final order upon
 481 proper notice, hearing, and proof of such refusal. Any licensee or applicant who is
 482 prohibited from practicing under this paragraph shall at reasonable intervals be afforded

483 an opportunity to demonstrate to the board that such person can resume or begin to
484 practice with reasonable skill and safety nursing as a registered professional nurse or
485 licensed undergraduate nurse.

486 (C) In enforcement of this paragraph the board may, upon reasonable grounds, obtain
487 any and all records relating to the mental or physical condition of a licensee or
488 applicant, including psychiatric records; and such records shall be admissible in any
489 hearing before the board, notwithstanding any privilege under a contrary rule of law or
490 statute. Every person who is licensed as a registered professional nurse or licensed
491 undergraduate nurse in this state or who shall file an application shall be deemed to
492 have given such person's consent to the board's obtaining any such records and to have
493 waived all objections to the admissibility of such records in any hearing before the
494 board upon the grounds that the same constitute a privileged communication."

495

SECTION 6.

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