

Senate Bill 168

By: Senators Kirk of the 13th, Burke of the 11th, Walker III of the 20th, Hufstetler of the 52nd, Unterman of the 45th and others

AS PASSED SENATE

**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 revise certain definitions relating to nurses; to clarify requirements relating
3 to granting authorization to holders of multistate licenses to engage in advanced nursing
4 practice; to repeal a provision relating to the Nurse Licensure Compact; to provide for related
5 matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

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

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Chapter 26 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to nurses, is
9 amended by revising paragraphs (1), (1.1), and (4) of Code Section 43-26-3, relating to
10 definitions relative to registered professional nurses, as follows:

11 "(1) 'Advanced nursing practice' means practice by a registered professional nurse who
12 is licensed by the board under this article or who holds a multistate license under Article
13 4 of this chapter who meets those educational, practice, certification requirements, or any
14 combination of such requirements; as specified by the board, and includes certified nurse
15 midwives, nurse practitioners, certified registered nurse anesthetists, clinical nurse
16 specialists in psychiatric/mental health, and others recognized by the board.

17 (1.1) 'Advanced practice registered nurse' means a registered professional nurse who is
18 licensed by the board under this chapter article or who holds a multistate license under
19 Article 4 of this chapter, who is recognized by the board as having met the requirements
20 established by the board to engage in advanced nursing practice, and who holds a master's
21 degree or other graduate degree from an approved nursing education program and
22 national board certification in his or her area of specialty, or a person who was recognized
23 as an advanced practice registered nurse by the board on or before June 30, 2006. This
24 paragraph shall not be construed to require a certified registered nurse anesthetist who
25 graduated from an approved nurse anesthetist educational program prior to January 1,
26 1999, to hold a master's degree or other graduate degree. Further, this paragraph shall not

27 be construed to require a registered professional nurse who holds a multistate license
 28 under Article 4 of this chapter authorizing such nurse to practice in another party state
 29 under a multistate licensure privilege to obtain a single-state license from the board as a
 30 condition of receiving authorization by the board to practice in this state as an advanced
 31 practice registered nurse."

32 "(4) 'License' means a current document, issued by the board, permitting a person to
 33 practice nursing as a registered professional nurse or a licensed undergraduate nurse.
 34 This term shall also include a multistate license issued by another state in accordance
 35 with Article 4 of this chapter permitting a person to practice nursing as a registered
 36 professional nurse in this state under a multistate licensure privilege."

37 **SECTION 2.**

38 Said chapter is further amended by revising paragraph (4) of Code Section 43-26-32, relating
 39 to definitions relative to licensed practical nurses, as follows:

40 "(4) 'License' means a current document, issued by the board, permitting a person to
 41 practice practical nursing as a licensed practical nurse. This term shall also include a
 42 multistate license issued by another state in accordance with Article 4 of this chapter
 43 permitting a person to practice practical nursing as a licensed practical nurse in this state
 44 under a multistate licensure privilege."

45 **SECTION 3.**

46 Said chapter is further amended by revising paragraph (2) of Code Section 43-26-50, relating
 47 to definitions relative to mandatory reporting requirements for nurses, as follows:

48 "(2) 'Nurse' means a registered professional nurse licensed or authorized pursuant to
 49 Article 1 or Article 4 of this chapter, an advanced practice registered nurse, as defined in
 50 paragraph (1.1) of Code Section 43-26-3, or a licensed practical nurse licensed or
 51 authorized pursuant to Article 2 or Article 4 of this chapter."

52 **SECTION 4.**

53 Said chapter is further amended by repealing Code Section 43-26-65, relating to applicability
 54 of article to nurses whose states have substantially similar licensure requirements.

55 **SECTION 5.**

56 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
 57 without such approval.

58

SECTION 6.

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