

House Bill 315

By: Representatives Cooper of the 43rd, Clark of the 101st, Rynders of the 152nd, Kaiser of the 59th, Jones of the 53rd, 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 registered professional nurses, so as to provide for continuing competency
3 requirements as a requirement for license renewal; to provide for inactive licenses; to provide
4 for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

7 Article 1 of Chapter 26 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
8 registered professional nurses, is amended by revising Code Section 43-26-9, relating to
9 renewal, surrender, failure to renew, and restoration and reissuance of a license, as follows:
10 "43-26-9.

11 (a) Licenses issued under this article shall be renewed biennially according to schedules
12 and fees approved by the board.

13 (b) A renewed license shall be issued to a registered professional nurse or licensed
14 undergraduate nurse who remits the required fee and complies with requirements
15 established by the board.

16 (b.1) Beginning with the 2016 license renewal cycle, an applicant for license renewal
17 under this article shall meet one of the following continuing competency requirements
18 during the previous licensure period:

19 (1) Completion of 30 continuing education hours by a board approved provider;

20 (2) Maintenance of certification or recertification by a national certifying body
21 recognized by the board;

22 (3) Completion of an accredited academic program of study in nursing or a related field,
23 as recognized by the board;

24 (4) Verification of competency by a health care facility or entity licensed under Chapter
25 7 of Title 31 or by a physician's office that is part of a health system and at least 500

26 hours practiced as evidenced by employer certification on a form approved by the board;
 27 or
 28 (5) Other activities as prescribed and approved by the board that show competency in the
 29 nursing field.

30 Failure to meet the minimum continuing competency requirement for renewal of a license
 31 shall be grounds for denial of a renewal application. The board may waive or modify the
 32 requirements contained in this subsection in cases of hardship, disability, or illness or under
 33 such other circumstances as the board, in its discretion, deems appropriate.

34 (c) The voluntary surrender of a license or the failure to renew a license by the end of an
 35 established penalty period shall have the same effect as a revocation of said license, subject
 36 to reinstatement at the discretion of the board. The board may restore and reissue a license
 37 and, as a condition thereof, may impose any disciplinary sanction provided by Code
 38 Section 43-1-19 or 43-26-11 ~~or Code Section 43-1-19.~~"

39 **SECTION 2.**

40 Said article is further amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

41 "43-26-9.1.

42 (a) A registered professional nurse, subject to rules of the board and on forms prescribed
 43 by the board, may request that his or her license be placed on inactive status and to be
 44 excused from payment of renewal fees until he or she resumes active status.

45 (b) A licensee on inactive status may have his or her license restored by submitting an
 46 application to the board on a form prescribed by the board and paying the required
 47 restoration fee. The board shall require evidence of competency to resume the practice of
 48 nursing as a registered professional nurse in order to restore the license to active status.

49 (c) A registered professional nurse or advanced practice registered nurse whose license is
 50 on inactive status shall not practice nursing as a registered professional nurse or an
 51 advanced practice registered nurse in this state."

52 **SECTION 3.**

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