

The House Committee on Regulated Industries offers the following substitute to HB 430:

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 licensure of advanced practice registered nurses; to revise
3 definitions; to provide for licensure requirements; to provide for renewal of licenses; to
4 provide for a misdemeanor to practice advanced nursing practice without a license; to amend
5 Article 3 of Chapter 2 of Title 40 and Article 2 of Chapter 34 of Title 43 of the Official Code
6 of Georgia Annotated, relating to prestige license plates and special plates for certain persons
7 and vehicles and medical practice, respectively, so as to authorize advanced practice
8 registered nurses and physician assistants to execute affidavits certifying an individual is
9 disabled for purposes of obtaining special vehicle decals for persons with disabilities; to
10 provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

PART I
SECTION 1-1.

Chapter 26 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to nurses, is amended in Code Section 43-26-3, relating to definitions, by revising paragraphs (1) and (1.1) as follows:

"(1) 'Advanced nursing practice' means practice by a registered professional nurse who is licensed by the board under this article or who holds a multistate license under Article 4 of this chapter who meets those educational, practice, certification requirements, or any combination of such requirements as specified in Code Section 43-26-7.1 and by the board, and includes certified nurse midwives, certified nurse practitioners, certified registered nurse anesthetists, clinical nurse specialists and clinical nurse specialists in psychiatric/mental health, and others recognized by the board.

(1.1) 'Advanced practice registered nurse' means a ~~registered professional nurse person~~ who is licensed by the board ~~under this article or who holds a multistate license under Article 4 of this chapter, who is recognized by the board~~ as having met the requirements contained in Code Section 43-26-7.1 and as established by the board to engage in advanced nursing practice, ~~and who holds a master's degree or other graduate degree from an approved nursing education program and national board certification in his or her area of specialty,~~ within one of the following roles: certified nurse midwife, certified nurse practitioner, certified registered nurse anesthetist, or clinical nurse specialist and clinical nurse specialist in psychiatric/mental health, and who functions in a population focus or a person who was recognized as an advanced practice registered nurse by the board on or before June 30, 2006. This paragraph shall not be construed to require a certified registered nurse anesthetist who graduated from an approved nurse anesthetist educational program prior to January 1, 1999, to hold a master's degree or other graduate degree. Further, this paragraph shall not be construed to require a registered professional

nurse who holds a multistate license under Article 4 of this chapter authorizing such nurse to practice in another party state under a multistate licensure privilege to obtain a single-state license from the board as a condition of receiving ~~authorization~~ licensure by the board to practice in this state as an advanced practice registered nurse."

SECTION 1-2.

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

"43-26-7.1.

(a) Any applicant who meets the requirements of this Code section shall be eligible for licensure as an advanced practice registered nurse.

(b) An applicant for initial licensure to practice as an advanced practice registered nurse shall:

(1) Submit a completed written application and fee;

(2) Be currently licensed by the board as a registered professional nurse or hold a multistate license under Article 4 of this chapter;

(3) Have completed an accredited graduate or postgraduate level advanced practice registered nursing program in one of the four roles specified under paragraph (1.1) of Code Section 43-26-3 and at least one population focus;

(4) Be currently certified by a national certifying body recognized by the board in the advanced practice registered nursing program role and population focuses appropriate to educational preparation;

(5) Have satisfactory results from a fingerprint record check report conducted by the Georgia Crime Information Center and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as determined by the board. Application for licensure under this Code section shall constitute express consent and authorization for the board to perform a criminal background check. Each applicant who submits an application to the board for licensure agrees to provide the board with any and all information necessary to run a criminal

background check, including, but not limited to, classifiable sets of fingerprints. The applicant shall be responsible for all fees associated with the performance of such criminal background check; and

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

(c) An applicant for reinstatement who has previously held a valid advanced practice registered nurse license in Georgia shall:

(1) Submit a completed written application and fee;

(2) Meet continuing competency requirements as established by the board;

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

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

SECTION 1-3.

Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 43-26-9, relating to biennial renewal of licenses, continuing competency requirements, voluntary surrender or failure to renew license, and restoration and reissuance of license, as follows:

"43-26-9.

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

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

~~(b.1)~~(c) Beginning with the 2016 license renewal cycle, an applicant for license renewal as a registered professional under this article shall meet one of the following continuing competency requirements during the previous licensure period:

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

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

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

(4) Verification of competency by a health care facility or entity licensed under Chapter 7 of Title 31 or by a physician's office that is part of a health system and at least 500 hours practiced as evidenced by employer certification on a form approved by the board; or

(5) Other activities as prescribed and approved by the board that show competency in the nursing field.

Failure to meet the minimum continuing competency requirement for renewal of a license shall be grounds for denial of a renewal application. The board may waive or modify the requirements contained in this subsection in cases of hardship, disability, or illness or under such other circumstances as the board, in its discretion, deems appropriate. An applicant who is renewing a license for the first time shall not be required to meet the requirements of this subsection until the time of the second renewal if the applicant's initial license period is six months or less.

(d) Advanced practice registered nurse licenses issued under this article shall be issued to an advanced practice registered nurse who remits the required fee and complies with requirements established by the board.

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

SECTION 1-4.

Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 43-26-10, relating to practicing as a registered professional nurse without a license prohibited, as follows:

"43-26-10.

It shall be a misdemeanor for any person, including any corporation, association, or individual, to:

(1) Practice nursing as a registered professional nurse; or advanced practice registered nurse without a valid, current license, except as otherwise permitted under Code Section 43-26-12;

(2) Practice nursing as a registered professional nurse or advanced practice registered nurse under cover of any diploma, license, or record illegally or fraudulently obtained, signed, or issued;

(3) Practice nursing as a registered professional nurse or advanced practice registered nurse during the time the license is suspended, revoked, surrendered, or administratively revoked for failure to renew;

(4) Use any words, abbreviations, figures, letters, title, sign, card, or device implying that such person is a registered professional nurse or advanced practice registered nurse unless such person is duly licensed or recognized by the board so to practice under the provisions of this article;

(5) Fraudulently furnish a license to practice nursing as a registered professional nurse or advanced practice registered nurse;

(6) Knowingly employ any person to practice nursing as a registered professional nurse or advanced practice registered nurse who is not a registered professional nurse or advanced practice registered nurse;

(7) Conduct a nursing education program preparing persons to practice nursing as registered professional nurses unless the program has been approved by the board; or

(8) Knowingly aid or abet any person to violate this article."

PART II

SECTION 2-1.

Article 3 of Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to prestige license plates and special plates for certain persons and vehicles, is amended by revising Code Section 40-2-74.1, relating to temporary, permanent, and special permanent parking permits for persons with disabilities, as follows:

"40-2-74.1.

(a) The department shall issue parking permits for persons with disabilities and may delegate to county tag agents the responsibility for issuance of such permits to residents of the county served by the tag agent. The department shall receive applications for and issue parking permits by mail to persons with disabilities upon presentation of an affidavit of a licensed doctor of medicine, licensed doctor of osteopathic medicine, licensed doctor of podiatric medicine, licensed optometrist, ~~or~~ licensed chiropractor, licensed advanced practice registered nurse acting pursuant to the authority of Code Section 43-34-25, or licensed physician assistant acting pursuant to the authority of subsection (e.1) of Code Section 43-34-103 stating that such person is a disabled person, the specific disability that limits or impairs the person's ability to walk, and that he or she is a person with disabilities as specified in paragraph (5) of Code Section 40-6-221. Permits shall be in such form as the department prescribes but shall be of sufficient size and sufficiently distinctively

marked to be easily visible when placed on or affixed to the driver's side of the dashboard or hung from the rearview mirror of the parked vehicle. Permits shall be made of a substrate as determined by the commissioner and shall be of sufficient quality to ensure that the coloring of the permit and the ink used thereon will resist fading for a period of at least four years. Permits shall be issued to individuals, and the name of the individual and an identification number shall appear on the permit. The individual to whom a permit is issued may use the permit for any vehicle he or she is operating or in which he or she is a passenger. Permits shall also be issued to institutions when the primary purpose of a vehicle operated by the institution is to transport individuals with disabilities. The name of the institution, the license number of the particular vehicle, and an identification number shall appear on the permit. The institution shall use such permit only for a vehicle which is operated by the institution and which is used primarily to transport individuals with disabilities.

(b) The department shall issue a temporary permit to any temporarily disabled person upon presentation of an affidavit of a licensed doctor of medicine, licensed doctor of osteopathic medicine, licensed doctor of podiatric medicine, licensed optometrist, ~~or~~ licensed chiropractor, licensed advanced practice registered nurse acting pursuant to the authority of Code Section 43-34-25, or licensed physician assistant acting pursuant to the authority of subsection (e.1) of Code Section 43-34-103 stating that such person is a temporarily disabled person, the specific disability that limits or impairs the person's ability to walk, that he or she is a person with disabilities as specified in paragraph (5) of Code Section 40-6-221, and a date until which such person is likely to remain disabled. The temporary permit shall show prominently on its face an expiration date the same as the date specified by such doctor for the likely termination of the disability, which date shall not be more than 180 days after the date the permit is issued. The expiration date shall be printed with permanent ink and in boldface type of sufficient size to be legible when the permit is displayed on the driver's side of the dashboard or hung from the rearview mirror.

(c) The department shall issue a permanent permit to any permanently disabled person upon presentation of an affidavit of a licensed doctor of medicine, licensed doctor of osteopathic medicine, licensed doctor of podiatric medicine, licensed optometrist, ~~or~~ licensed chiropractor, licensed advanced practice registered nurse acting pursuant to the authority of Code Section 43-34-25, or licensed physician assistant acting pursuant to the authority of subsection (e.1) of Code Section 43-34-103 stating that such person is a permanently disabled person. The affidavit shall further state the specific disability that limits or impairs the person's ability to walk or that he or she is a person with disabilities as specified in paragraph (5) of Code Section 40-6-221. The department shall also issue a permanent permit to an institution which operates vehicles used primarily for the transportation of individuals with disabilities upon presentation of a certification from the institution regarding use of its vehicles. The institution shall receive permits only for the number of vehicles so used and shall affix the permits to the driver's side of the dashboards of such vehicles. The permanent permit shall be predominantly blue in color and shall show prominently on its face an expiration date four years from the date it is issued. The expiration date shall be machine printed, not handwritten, in boldface type of sufficient size to be legible when the permit is displayed on the driver's side of the dashboard or hung from the rearview mirror.

(d) Any individual to whom a specially designated disabled veteran's license plate has been issued pursuant to Code Sections 40-2-69 through 40-2-72 and any individual to whom a specially designated disabled person's license plate has been issued pursuant to Code Section 40-2-74 shall be authorized to park the passenger motor vehicle on which the specially designated license plate is attached in a parking place for persons with disabilities without the necessity of obtaining a parking permit for persons with disabilities pursuant to this Code section.

(e) The department shall issue a special permanent permit to any person who:

(1) Because of a physical disability drives a motor vehicle which has been equipped with hand controls for the operation of the vehicle's brakes and accelerator; or

(2) Is physically disabled due to the loss of, or loss of use of, both upper extremities.

This special permanent permit shall be gold in color and shall show prominently on its face an expiration date four years from the date it is issued. The expiration date shall be printed in a size of print that is legible when the permit is displayed on the driver's side of the dashboard or hung from the rearview mirror. Such a special permit shall be used in the same manner as, and shall be subject to the provisions of this Code section relating to, other permanent parking permits for persons with disabilities and shall also be used as provided in Code Section 10-1-164.1. In addition to any other required printing, the following shall be printed upon this special gold permit:

'Code Section 10-1-164.1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated requires that any owner or operator of a gasoline station that sells full-service gasoline at one price and self-service at a lower price shall provide the service of dispensing gasoline at the self-service price for the holder of this special permit when such holder requests such service and is the operator of the vehicle and is not accompanied by another person 16 years of age or older who is not mobility impaired or blind.'

(f) The department and county tag agents shall not charge or collect any fee for issuing parking permits for persons with disabilities under this Code section.

(g) Any special disabled person decal issued under the former provisions of this Code section shall be valid until its expiration date but shall not be reissued.

(h) For purposes of this Code section, an active duty military physician shall be entitled to submit an affidavit in support of the application of active duty or retired military personnel for parking permits for persons with disabilities whether or not such physician is licensed to practice in Georgia. Such affidavit shall state that the applicant is in active military service and is stationed in Georgia pursuant to military orders or is retired from the military and is a resident of Georgia and that such person is a disabled person, the

specific disability that limits or impairs the person's ability to walk, and that he or she is a person with disabilities as specified in paragraph (5) of Code Section 40-6-221.

(i) For purposes of this Code section the department shall accept, in lieu of an affidavit, a signed and dated statement from the doctor, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant which includes the same information as required in an affidavit written upon security paper as defined in paragraph (38.5) of Code Section 26-4-5."

SECTION 2-2.

Article 2 of Chapter 34 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to medical practice, is amended in Code Section 43-34-23, relating to delegation of authority to nurse or physician assistant, by revising subparagraph (b)(1)(B) as follows:

"(B) A physician may delegate to those health care professionals identified in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph:

(i) The authority to order controlled substances selected from a formulary of such drugs established by the board and the authority to order dangerous drugs, medical treatments, and diagnostic studies;

(ii) The authority to request, receive, and sign for professional samples and to distribute professional samples to patients. The office or facility at which the health care professional identified in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph is working shall maintain a general list of the professional samples approved by the delegating physician for request, receipt, and distribution by the health care professional identified in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph as well as a complete list of the specific number and dosage of each professional sample and medication voucher received. Professional samples that are distributed by a health care professional identified in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph shall be so noted in the patient's medical record. In addition to the requirements of this Code section, all professional

samples shall be maintained as required by applicable state and federal laws and regulations; and

(iii) The authority to sign, certify, and endorse all documents relating to health care provided to a patient within his or her scope of authorized practice, including, but not limited to, documents relating to physical examination forms of all state agencies and verification and evaluation forms of the Department of Human Services, the State Board of Education, local boards of education, the Department of Community Health, the Department of Revenue, and the Department of Corrections; provided, however, that a health care professional identified in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph shall not have the authority to sign death certificates or assign a percentage of a disability rating."

SECTION 2-3.

Said article is further amended in Code Section 43-34-25, relating to delegation of certain medical acts to advanced practice registered nurse, construction and limitations of such delegation, definitions, conditions of nurse protocol, and issuance of prescription drug orders, by revising subsection (e.1) as follows:

"(e.1) Except for death certificates and assigning a percentage of a disability rating, an advanced practice registered nurse may be delegated the authority to sign, certify, and endorse all documents relating to health care provided to a patient within his or her scope of authorized practice, including, but not limited to, documents relating to physical examination forms of all state agencies and verification and evaluation forms of the Department of Human Services, the State Board of Education, local boards of education, the Department of Community Health, the Department of Revenue, and the Department of Corrections."

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PART III

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SECTION 3-1.

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