

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to nursing; defining certain terms related to the regulation of nursing; revising the requirements for the licensure of nurses; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Chapter 632 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 5, inclusive, of this act.

Sec. 2. *“Accredited school of practical nursing” means a school of practical nursing which is accredited by a nationally recognized association or an agency authorized by law to accredit schools of practical nursing in the state in which the school is located.*

Sec. 3. *“Accredited school of professional nursing” means a school of professional nursing which is accredited by a nationally recognized association or an agency authorized by law to accredit schools of professional nursing in the state in which the school is located.*

Sec. 4. *“Approved school of practical nursing” means a school of practical nursing that is approved by the Board as meeting the standards for practical nursing education established by the Board pursuant to NRS 632.430.*

Sec. 5. *“Approved school of professional nursing” means a school of professional nursing that is approved by the Board as meeting the standards for professional nursing education established by the Board pursuant to NRS 632.440 to 632.470, inclusive.*

Sec. 6. NRS 632.010 is hereby amended to read as follows:

632.010 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in NRS 632.011 to 632.0195, inclusive, *and sections 2 to 5, inclusive, of this act* have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.

Sec. 7. NRS 632.011 is hereby amended to read as follows:

632.011 “Accredited school of nursing” means a school of nursing which is accredited by a nationally recognized association or an agency authorized by law to accredit ~~for approve~~ schools of nursing in the state in which the school is located.

Sec. 8. NRS 632.120 is hereby amended to read as follows:

632.120 1. The Board shall:

(a) Adopt regulations establishing reasonable standards:

(1) For the denial, renewal, suspension and revocation of, and the placement of conditions, limitations and restrictions upon, a license to practice professional or practical nursing or a certificate to practice as a nursing assistant.

(2) Of professional conduct for the practice of nursing.

(3) For prescribing and dispensing controlled substances and dangerous drugs in accordance with applicable statutes.

(b) Prepare and administer examinations for the issuance of a license or certificate under this chapter.

(c) Investigate and determine the eligibility of an applicant for a license or certificate under this chapter.

(d) Carry out and enforce the provisions of this chapter and the regulations adopted pursuant thereto.

2. The Board may adopt regulations establishing reasonable:

(a) Qualifications for the issuance of a license or certificate under this chapter.

(b) Standards for the continuing professional competence of licensees or holders of a certificate. The Board may evaluate licensees or holders of a certificate periodically for compliance with those standards.

3. The Board may adopt regulations establishing a schedule of reasonable fees and charges, in addition to those set forth in NRS 632.345, for:

(a) Investigating licensees or holders of a certificate and applicants for a license or certificate under this chapter;

(b) Evaluating the professional competence of licensees or holders of a certificate;

(c) Conducting hearings pursuant to this chapter;

(d) Duplicating and verifying records of the Board; and

(e) Surveying, evaluating and approving schools of practical nursing, and schools and courses of professional nursing, and collect the fees established pursuant to this subsection.

4. *For the purposes of this chapter, the Board shall, by regulation, define the term "in the process of obtaining accreditation."*

5. The Board may adopt such other regulations, not inconsistent with state or federal law, as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter relating to nursing assistant trainees and nursing assistants.

~~[5.]~~ 6. The Board may adopt such other regulations, not inconsistent with *state or federal* law, as are necessary to enable it to administer the provisions of this chapter.

Sec. 9. NRS 632.140 is hereby amended to read as follows:

632.140 1. Every applicant for a license to practice as a professional nurse in the State of Nevada ~~[shall]~~ *must* submit to the Board written evidence under oath that he:

- (a) Is of good moral character.
- (b) Is in good physical and mental health.
- (c) Has completed a course of study in ~~an~~:

(1) An accredited school of professional nursing and holds a diploma therefrom ~~it~~; or

(2) An approved school of professional nursing in the process of obtaining accreditation and holds a diploma therefrom.

(d) Meets such other reasonable preliminary qualification requirements as the Board may from time to time prescribe.

2. Each applicant ~~shall~~ **must** remit the fee required by this chapter with his application for a license to practice as a professional nurse in this state.

Sec. 10. NRS 632.270 is hereby amended to read as follows:

632.270 Each applicant for a license to practice as a practical nurse ~~shall~~ **must** submit to the Board written evidence, under oath, that he:

- 1. Is of good moral character.
- 2. Has a high school diploma or its equivalent as determined by the State Board of Education.
- 3. Is at least 18 years of age.
- 4. Has:

(a) Successfully completed the prescribed course of study in an accredited school of practical nursing or *an accredited school of professional nursing*, and been awarded a diploma by the school; ~~or~~

(b) Successfully completed the prescribed course of study in an approved school of practical nursing in the process of obtaining accreditation or an approved school of professional nursing in the process of obtaining accreditation, and been awarded a diploma by the school; or

(c) Been registered or licensed as a registered nurse under the laws of another jurisdiction.

5. Meets any other qualifications prescribed in regulations of the Board.

Sec. 11. NRS 632.343 is hereby amended to read as follows:

632.343 1. The Board shall not renew any license issued under this chapter until the licensee has submitted proof satisfactory to the Board of completion, during the 2-year period before renewal of the license, of 30 hours in a program of continuing education approved by the Board. The licensee is exempt from this provision for the first biennial period after graduation from ~~an~~:

(a) An accredited school of professional nursing ~~or~~;

(b) An accredited school of practical nursing ~~it~~;

(c) An approved school of professional nursing in the process of obtaining accreditation; or

(d) An approved school of practical nursing in the process of obtaining accreditation.

2. The Board shall review all courses offered to nurses for the completion of the requirement set *forth* in subsection 1. The Board may approve nursing and other courses which are directly related to the practice of nursing as well as others which bear a reasonable relationship to current developments in the field of nursing or any special area of practice in which a licensee engages. These may include academic studies, workshops, extension studies, home study and other courses.

Sec. 12. NRS 632.430 is hereby amended to read as follows:

632.430 **1.** The Board may prescribe standards and curricula for schools of practical nursing, visit, survey and approve those schools, and remove those schools from a list of approved schools of nursing for just cause.

2. A school of practical nursing in this state must be:

(a) An accredited school of practical nursing; or

(b) An approved school of practical nursing in the process of obtaining accreditation.

Sec. 13. NRS 632.440 is hereby amended to read as follows:

632.440 **1.** The Board shall prescribe curricula and standards for schools and courses of professional nursing. The Board shall provide for surveys of such schools and courses at such times as it may deem necessary. It shall approve such schools and courses as meet the requirements of this chapter and of the Board. It shall evaluate and approve courses for affiliation with approved schools of nursing in this state or with schools of nursing which have applied for such approval.

2. A school of professional nursing in this state must be:

(a) An accredited school of professional nursing; or

(b) An approved school of professional nursing in the process of obtaining accreditation.

Sec. 14. This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.