

"AN ACT TO AMEND SUBSECTION (a) OF SECTION 13 OF ACT 432 OF 1971, AS AMENDED [ARK. STAT. 72-757(a)], TO PERMIT THE BOARD OF NURSING TO RENEW NURSING LICENSES ON A CYCLICAL BASIS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Subsection (a) of section 13 of Act 432 of 1971, as amended, the same being Arkansas Statute 72-757(a), is hereby amended to read as follows:

"(a) (1) The Board shall prescribe the procedure for the cyclical biennial renewal of licenses to every person licensed by the Board. In each case, the Board shall mail an application for renewal to the licensee at least thirty (30) days prior to the expiration date of the license. The license renewal fee for registered nurses, licensed practical nurses and licensed psychiatric technician nurses shall not exceed thirty dollars (\$30.00). The license renewal fee for registered nurse practitioners and certified registered nurse anesthetists shall not exceed ten dollars (\$10.00). Upon receipt of the application and the fee, the Board shall verify the accuracy of the application and issue to the applicant a certificate of renewal for a period to expire on the last day of the current biennial cycle. The procedure prescribed by the State Board of Nursing for licensure renewal shall not be implemented until such proposal has been submitted to, reviewed and approved by the Joint Interim Committee on Public Health, Welfare and Labor of the Arkansas General Assembly. Such renewal shall render the holder thereof a legal practitioner of nursing for the period stated in the certificate of renewal.

(2) Any licensee who allows his or her license to lapse by failing to renew the license as provided above may be reinstated by the Board on payment of the renewal fee plus a penalty not to exceed Ten Dollars (\$10.00).

(3) Any person practicing nursing during the time his or her license has lapsed shall be considered an illegal practitioner and shall be subject to the penalties provided for violations of this Act.

(4) A nurse who does not engage in nursing in the State during the succeeding year shall not be required to pay the renewal fee so long as he or she remains inactive. Should he or she wish to resume nursing at some future time, he or she shall so notify the Board and remit the renewal fee for the current biennial period."

SECTION 2. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. EMERGENCY. It is hereby found and determined by the General Assembly that the current law concerning licensure renewal by the State Board of Nursing is not consistent with current practices and that to implement the current law would impose a hardship on the State. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

