

1 State of Arkansas
2 94th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2023
4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 79

5 By: Senator K. Hammer
6 By: Representative L. Johnson
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO ALLOW FULL INDEPENDENT PRACTICE AUTHORITY
10 FOR CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALISTS; TO AUTHORIZE
11 EXPERIENCE IN ANOTHER STATE TO QUALIFY FOR FULL
12 INDEPENDENT PRACTICE AUTHORITY; AND FOR OTHER
13 PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

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17 TO ALLOW FULL INDEPENDENT PRACTICE
18 AUTHORITY FOR CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALISTS;
19 AND TO ALLOW EXPERIENCE IN ANOTHER STATE
20 TO QUALIFY.
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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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25 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 17-87-314(a)-(c), concerning full
26 independent practice authority of certain nurses, are amended to read as
27 follows:

28 (a) As used in this section, “full independent practice authority”
29 means the ability of a certified nurse practitioner or a clinical nurse
30 specialist to practice with prescriptive authority without a collaborative
31 practice agreement as described in § 17-87-310.

32 (b)(1) The Full Independent Practice Credentialing Committee may grant
33 a certificate of full independent practice authority to a certified nurse
34 practitioner or a clinical nurse specialist who submits:

- 35 (A) An application;
- 36 (B) An appropriate application fee as determined by the



1 Full Independent Practice Credentialing Committee;

2 (C) Proof of successful completion of six thousand two
3 hundred forty (6,240) hours of practice;

4 (i) Under ~~under~~ a collaborative practice agreement
5 with a physician; or

6 (ii) In another state, territory, or foreign country
7 that authorizes a certified nurse practitioner or a clinical nurse specialist
8 to practice if the certified nurse practitioner or the clinical nurse
9 specialist also provides proof of his or her licensure in good standing from
10 that state, territory, or foreign country and proof of his or her licensure
11 in good standing from the Arkansas State Board of Nursing; and

12 (D) Any other relevant information as determined by the
13 Full Independent Practice Credentialing Committee.

14 (2) A certificate of full independent practice authority shall
15 be renewed every three (3) years with an appropriate renewal fee as
16 determined by the Full Independent Practice Credentialing Committee.

17 (c) A certified nurse practitioner or a clinical nurse specialist with
18 a certificate of full independent practice authority may receive and
19 prescribe drugs, medicines, or therapeutic devices appropriate to the
20 certified nurse practitioner's area of practice or the clinical nurse
21 specialist's area of practice.

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23 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 17-87-314(e), concerning full independent
24 practice authority of certain nurses, is amended to read as follows:

25 (e) The Full Independent Practice Credentialing Committee shall:

26 (1)(A) Review and approve or deny all applications for a
27 certificate of full independent practice authority for certified nurse
28 practitioners or clinical nurse specialists and for renewal of a certificate
29 of full independent practice authority for a certified nurse practitioner or
30 a clinical nurse specialist.

31 (B) If the Full Independent Practice Credentialing
32 Committee denies an application for a certificate of full independent
33 practice authority, the Full Independent Practice Credentialing Committee
34 shall explain the reasons for the denial in writing to the applicant;

35 (2) Review complaints made against certified nurse practitioners
36 or clinical nurse specialists who have a certificate of full independent

1 practice authority;

2 (3) Review recommendations made by the Arkansas State Medical
3 Board and the Arkansas State Board of Nursing and notify the certified nurse
4 practitioner or the clinical nurse specialist of any action taken by the Full
5 Independent Practice Credentialing Committee based on the recommendations;

6 (4)(A) If the action taken is suspension or revocation of the
7 certificate of full independent practice authority, hold a hearing providing
8 the certified nurse practitioner or a clinical nurse specialist who has a
9 certificate of full independent practice authority with ten (10) days' notice
10 in writing to appear before the Full Independent Practice Credentialing
11 Committee, at the time and place as the Full Independent Practice
12 Credentialing Committee may direct, to show cause as to why his or her
13 certificate of full independent practice authority should not be suspended or
14 revoked.

15 (B) At the hearing, the Full Independent Practice
16 Credentialing Committee shall:

17 (i)(a) Have the power to subpoena witnesses.

18 (b) The Chair of the Full Independent Practice
19 Credentialing Committee or his or her designee shall sign subpoenas and have
20 the power to administer oaths;

21 (ii) Hear evidence; and

22 (iii)(a) Determine if the certificate of full
23 independent practice authority should be suspended or revoked.

24 (b) If the Full Independent Practice
25 Credentialing Committee determines that the certificate of full independent
26 practice authority should be suspended or revoked, the suspension or
27 revocation shall take place immediately.

28 (C) However, only the Arkansas State Board of Nursing has
29 the authority to suspend or revoke the nursing license of a certified nurse
30 practitioner or a clinical nurse specialist; and

31 (5) Provide reports quarterly and upon request regarding the
32 number of applicants approved and denied to the Senate Committee on Public
33 Health, Welfare, and Labor and the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare,
34 and Labor.

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36 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 17-87-314(g)-(h), concerning full

1 independent practice authority of certain nurses, are amended to read as
2 follows:

3 (g) A certified nurse practitioner or a clinical nurse specialist
4 whose certificate of full independent practice authority has been denied,
5 suspended, or revoked by the Full Independent Practice Credentialing
6 Committee under this section may appeal the action of the Full Independent
7 Practice Credentialing Committee under the Arkansas Administrative Procedure
8 Act, § 25-15-201 et seq.

9 (h) A certified nurse practitioner or a clinical nurse specialist with
10 a certificate of full independent practice authority shall conspicuously
11 identify the certificate of full independent practice authority and that the
12 certified nurse practitioner or the clinical nurse specialist is not required
13 to have a collaborative practice agreement on signage in the office where the
14 certified nurse practitioner or the clinical nurse specialist practices.
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