

AN ACT TO REGULATE THE PRACTICE OF NURSING.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. Article 9 of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes is hereby rewritten as follows:

ARTICLE 9A.
Nursing Practice Act.

§ 90-171.19. *Legislative findings.* — The General Assembly of North Carolina finds that mandatory licensure of all who engage in the practice of nursing is necessary to ensure minimum standards of competency and to provide the public safe nursing care.

§ 90-171.20. *Definitions.* — As used in this Article, unless the context requires otherwise:

- (1) ‘Board’ means the North Carolina Board of Nursing.
- (2) ‘Health care provider’ means any licensed health care professional and any agent or employee of any health care institution, health care insurer, health care professional school, or a member of any allied health profession. For purposes of this Article, a person enrolled in a program that prepares the person to be a licensed health care professional or an allied health professional shall be deemed a health care provider.
- (3) ‘License’ means a permit issued by the Board to practice nursing as a registered nurse or as a licensed practical nurse, including a renewal thereof.
- (4) ‘Nursing’ is a dynamic discipline which includes the assessing, caring, counseling, teaching, referring and implementing of prescribed treatment in the maintenance of health, prevention and management of illness, injury, disability or the achievement of a dignified death. It is ministering to, assisting, and sustained, vigilant, and continuous care of those acutely or chronically ill; supervising patients during convalescence and rehabilitation; the supportive and restorative care given to maintain the optimum health level of individuals, groups, and communities; the supervision, teaching, and evaluation of those who perform or are preparing to perform these functions; and the administration of nursing programs and nursing services.
- (5) ‘Nursing program’ means any educational program in North Carolina offering to prepare persons to meet the educational requirements for licensure under this Article.
- (6) ‘Person’ means an individual, corporation, partnership, association, unit of government, or other legal entity.
- (7) The “practice of nursing by a registered nurse” consists of the following ten components:
 - a. Assessing the patient's physical and mental health including the patient's reaction to illnesses and treatment regimens.
 - b. Recording and reporting the results of the nursing assessment.
 - c. Planning, initiating, delivering, and evaluating appropriate nursing acts.
 - d. Teaching, assigning, delegating to or supervising other personnel in implementing the treatment regimen.
 - e. Collaborating with other health care providers in determining the appropriate health care for a patient but, subject to the provisions of G.S. 90-18.2, not prescribing a medical treatment regimen or making a medical diagnosis, except under supervision of a licensed physician.
 - f. Implementing the treatment and pharmaceutical regimen prescribed by any person authorized by State law to prescribe the regimen.
 - g. Providing teaching and counseling about the patient's health.
 - h. Reporting and recording the plan for care, nursing care given, and the patient's response to that care.
 - i. Supervising, teaching, and evaluating those who perform or are preparing to perform nursing functions and administering nursing programs and nursing services.
 - j. Providing for the maintenance of safe and effective nursing care, whether rendered directly or indirectly.

- (8) The “practice of nursing by a licensed practical nurse” consists of the following seven components:
- a. Participating in the assessment of the patient's physical and mental health, including the patient's reaction to illnesses and treatment regimens.
 - b. Recording and reporting the results of the nursing assessment.
 - c. Participating in implementing the health care plan developed by the registered nurse and/or prescribed by any person authorized by State law to prescribe such a plan, by performing tasks assigned or delegated by and performed under the supervision or under orders or directions of a registered nurse, physician licensed to practice medicine, dentist, or other person authorized by State law to provide the supervision.
 - d. Assigning or delegating nursing interventions to other qualified personnel under the supervision of the registered nurse.
 - e. Participating in the teaching and counseling of patients as assigned by a registered nurse, physician, or other qualified professional licensed to practice in North Carolina.
 - f. Reporting and recording the nursing care rendered and the patient's response to that care.
 - g. Maintaining safe and effective nursing care, whether rendered directly or indirectly.

§ 90.171.21. *Board of Nursing; composition; selection; vacancies; qualifications; term of office; compensation.*

(a) The Board shall consist of 14 members. Eight members shall be registered nurses. Three members shall be licensed practical nurses. Three members shall be representatives of the public.

(b) Selection. The North Carolina Board of Nursing shall conduct an election each year to fill vacancies of nurse members of the Board scheduled to occur during the next year. Nominations of candidates for election of registered nurse members shall be made by written petition signed by not less than 10 registered nurses eligible to vote in the election. Nominations of candidates for election of licensed practical nurse members shall be made by written petition signed by not less than 10 licensed practical nurses eligible to vote in the election. Every licensed registered nurse holding an active license shall be eligible to vote in the election of registered nurse Board members. Every licensed practical nurse holding an active license shall be eligible to vote in the election of licensed practical nurse Board members. The list of nominations shall be filed with the Board after January 1 of the year in which the election is to be held and no later than midnight of the first day of April of such year. Before preparing ballots, the Board shall notify each person who has been duly nominated of the person's nomination and request permission to enter the person's name on the ballot. A member of the Board who is nominated for reelection and who does not withdraw the member's name from the ballot is disqualified to participate in conducting the election. Elected members shall begin their term of office on January 1 of the year following their election.

Nominations of persons to serve as public members of the Board may be made to the Governor or the General Assembly by any citizen or group within the State. The Governor shall appoint one public member to the Board, and the General Assembly shall appoint two public members to the Board. Of the public members appointed by the General Assembly, one shall be appointed by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and one shall be appointed by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Board members shall be commissioned by the Governor upon their election or appointment.

(c) Vacancies. All unexpired terms of Board members appointed by the General Assembly shall be filled within 45 days after the term is vacated. The Governor shall fill all