



April 6, 2020

Amended December 27, 2021

On March 10, 2020, Governor Roy Cooper declared a state of emergency due to the public health emergency posed by novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The North Carolina Board of Nursing (“Board”) is vested with the authority to waive the requirements of Article 9A Chapter 90 of the General Statutes to allow emergency health services to the public if the Governor declares a state of emergency.

Pursuant to the authority granted to the Board by N.C. Gen. Stat. §90-171.49 in response to Executive Order 116 (2020), the Board hereby waives the following rules and requirements:

- **Emergency Temporary Graduate RN/LPN Nurse License**

21 NCAC 36 .0211 LICENSURE BY EXAMINATION

- (a) To be eligible for licensure by examination, an applicant shall:
 - (1) submit a completed application for licensure, attesting under oath or affirmation that the information on the application is true and complete and authorizing the release to the Board of all information pertaining to the application. Application for Examination is posted on the Board's website at www.ncbon.com;
 - (2) submit the licensure application fee as established in G.S. 90-171.27(b);
 - (3) have an unencumbered license in all jurisdictions in which a license is or has ever been held;
 - (4) have no pending court conditions as a result of any misdemeanor or felony convictions. The applicant shall provide a written explanation and all investigative reports or court documents evidencing the circumstances of the crimes if requested by the Board. The Board shall use these documents when determining if a license should be denied pursuant to G.S. 90-171.48 and G.S. 90-171.37;
 - (5) submit a written explanation and all related documents if the nurse has ever been listed as a nurse aide and if there have ever been any substantiated findings pursuant to G.S. 131E-255. The Board may take these findings into consideration when determining if a license should be denied pursuant to G.S. 90-171.37. In the event findings are pending, the Board may withhold taking any action until the investigation is completed; and
 - (6) complete a criminal background check in accordance with G.S. 90-171.48;

- (7) apply to take and pass the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX™).

Waive the provisions of (a)(6) and (7) for applicants who are first time NCLEX test takers so they may practice as an RN or LPN until they are able to take and pass the NCLEX, and complete a criminal background check in accordance with the rule. The holder of a temporary permit shall identify themselves as a Graduate RN or Graduate LPN. This temporary permit shall expire 6 months from the date of issuance. This permit shall be deactivated if the applicant does not pass the NCLEX on the first taking of the exam or the criminal background check pursuant to §90-178.48 determines the applicant to be a risk to public safety.

This waiver does not waive other statutory requirements or limitations. This waiver shall take effect on April 6, 2020 and shall remain in full force and effect until June 30, 2022, or unless sooner amended, or rescinded by the Board or further Executive Order.



Crystal Tillman, DNP, RN, CNP, FRE
Chief Executive Officer