

CHAPTER 35**(HB 442)**

AN ACT relating to nurse licensure.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔Section 1. KRS 314.011 is amended to read as follows:

As used in this chapter, unless the context thereof requires otherwise:

- (1) "Board" means Kentucky Board of Nursing;
- (2) "Delegation" means directing a competent person to perform a selected nursing activity or task in a selected situation under the nurse's supervision and pursuant to administrative regulations promulgated by the board in accordance with the provisions of KRS Chapter 13A;
- (3) "Nurse" means a person who is licensed or holds the privilege to practice under the provisions of this chapter as a registered nurse or as a licensed practical nurse;
- (4) "Nursing process" means the investigative approach to nursing practice utilizing a method of problem-solving by means of:
 - (a) Nursing diagnosis, a systematic investigation of a health concern, and an analysis of the data collected in order to arrive at an identifiable problem; and
 - (b) Planning, implementation, and evaluation based on nationally accepted standards of nursing practice;
- (5) "Registered nurse" means one who is licensed or holds the privilege under the provisions of this chapter to engage in registered nursing practice;
- (6) "Registered nursing practice" means the performance of acts requiring substantial specialized knowledge, judgment, and nursing skill based upon the principles of psychological, biological, physical, and social sciences in the application of the nursing process in:
 - (a) The care, counsel, and health teaching of the ill, injured, or infirm;
 - (b) The maintenance of health or prevention of illness of others;
 - (c) The administration of medication and treatment as prescribed by a physician, physician assistant, dentist, or advanced practice registered nurse and as further authorized or limited by the board, and which are consistent either with American Nurses' Association Standards of Practice or with Standards of Practice established by nationally accepted organizations of registered nurses. Components of medication administration include but are not limited to:
 1. Preparing and giving medications in the prescribed dosage, route, and frequency, including dispensing medications only as defined in subsection (17)(b) of this section;
 2. Observing, recording, and reporting desired effects, untoward reactions, and side effects of drug therapy;
 3. Intervening when emergency care is required as a result of drug therapy;
 4. Recognizing accepted prescribing limits and reporting deviations to the prescribing individual;
 5. Recognizing drug incompatibilities and reporting interactions or potential interactions to the prescribing individual; and
 6. Instructing an individual regarding medications;
 - (d) The supervision, teaching of, and delegation to other personnel in the performance of activities relating to nursing care; and
 - (e) The performance of other nursing acts which are authorized or limited by the board, and which are consistent either with American Nurses' Association Standards of Practice or with Standards of Practice established by nationally accepted organizations of registered nurses;

- (7) "Advanced practice registered nurse" means a certified nurse practitioner, certified nurse anesthetist, certified nurse midwife, or clinical nurse specialist, who is licensed to engage in advance practice registered nursing pursuant to KRS 314.042 and certified in at least one (1) population focus;
- (8) "Advanced practice registered nursing" means the performance of additional acts by registered nurses who have gained added knowledge and skills through an approved organized postbasic program of study and clinical experience; who are certified by the American Nurses' Association or other nationally established organizations or agencies recognized by the board to certify registered nurses for advanced practice registered nursing as a certified nurse practitioner, certified nurse anesthetist, certified nurse midwife, or clinical nurse specialist; and who certified in at least one (1) population focus. The additional acts shall, subject to approval of the board, include but not be limited to prescribing treatment, drugs, devices, and ordering diagnostic tests. Advanced practice registered nurses who engage in these additional acts shall be authorized to issue prescriptions for and dispense nonscheduled legend drugs as defined in KRS 217.905 and to issue prescriptions for but not to dispense Schedules II through V controlled substances as classified in KRS 218A.060, 218A.070, 218A.080, 218A.090, 218A.100, 218A.110, 218A.120, and 218A.130, under the conditions set forth in KRS 314.042 and regulations promulgated by the Kentucky Board of Nursing on or before August 15, 2006.
- (a) Prescriptions issued by advanced practice registered nurses for Schedule II controlled substances classified under KRS 218A.060 shall be limited to a seventy-two (72) hour supply without any refill. Prescriptions issued under this subsection for psychostimulants may be written for a thirty (30) day supply only by an advanced practice registered nurse certified in psychiatric-mental health nursing who is providing services in a health facility as defined in KRS Chapter 216B or in a regional mental health-mental retardation services program as defined in KRS Chapter 210.
- (b) Prescriptions issued by advanced practice registered nurses for Schedule III controlled substances classified under KRS 218A.080 shall be limited to a thirty (30) day supply without any refill. Prescriptions issued by advanced practice registered nurses for Schedules IV and V controlled substances classified under KRS 218A.100 and 218A.120 shall be limited to the original prescription and refills not to exceed a six (6) month supply.
- (c) Limitations for specific controlled substances which are identified as having the greatest potential for abuse or diversion, based on the best available scientific and law enforcement evidence, shall be established in an administrative regulation promulgated by the Kentucky Board of Nursing. The regulation shall be based on recommendations from the Controlled Substances Formulary Development Committee, which is hereby created. The committee shall be composed of two (2) advanced practice registered nurses appointed by the Kentucky Board of Nursing, one (1) of whom shall be designated as a committee co-chair; two (2) physicians appointed by the Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure, one (1) of whom shall be designated as a committee co-chair; and one (1) pharmacist appointed by the Kentucky Board of Pharmacy. The initial regulation shall be promulgated on or before August 15, 2006, and shall be reviewed at least annually thereafter by the committee.

Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as requiring an advanced practice registered nurse designated by the board as a certified nurse anesthetist to obtain prescriptive authority pursuant to this chapter or any other provision of law in order to deliver anesthesia care. The performance of these additional acts shall be consistent with the certifying organization or agencies' scopes and standards of practice recognized by the board by administrative regulation;

- (9) "Licensed practical nurse" means one who is licensed or holds the privilege under the provisions of this chapter to engage in licensed practical nursing practice;
- (10) "Licensed practical nursing practice" means the performance of acts requiring knowledge and skill such as are taught or acquired in approved schools for practical nursing in:
- (a) The observing and caring for the ill, injured, or infirm under the direction of a registered nurse, a licensed physician, or dentist;
- (b) The giving of counsel and applying procedures to safeguard life and health, as defined and authorized by the board;
- (c) The administration of medication or treatment as authorized by a physician, physician assistant, dentist, or advanced practice registered nurse and as further authorized or limited by the board which is consistent with the National Federation of Licensed Practical Nurses or with Standards of Practice established by nationally accepted organizations of licensed practical nurses;

- (d) Teaching, supervising, and delegating except as limited by the board; and
 - (e) The performance of other nursing acts which are authorized or limited by the board and which are consistent with the National Federation of Practical Nurses' Standards of Practice or with Standards of Practice established by nationally accepted organizations of licensed practical nurses;
- (11) "School of nursing" means a nursing education program preparing persons for licensure as a registered nurse or a practical nurse;
- (12) "Continuing education" means offerings beyond the basic nursing program that present specific content planned and evaluated to meet competency based behavioral objectives which develop new skills and upgrade knowledge;
- (13) "Nursing assistance" means the performance of delegated nursing acts by unlicensed nursing personnel for compensation under supervision of a nurse;
- (14) "Sexual assault nurse examiner" means a registered nurse who has completed the required education and clinical experience and maintains a current credential from the board as provided under KRS 314.142 to conduct forensic examinations of victims of sexual offenses under the medical protocol issued by the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet in ~~consultation~~ ~~consultation~~ with the Sexual Assault Response Team Advisory Committee pursuant to KRS 216B.400(4);
- (15) "Competency" means the application of knowledge and skills in the utilization of critical thinking, effective communication, interventions, and caring behaviors consistent with the nurse's practice role within the context of the public's health, safety, and welfare;
- (16) "Credential" means a current license, registration, certificate, or other similar authorization that is issued by the board;
- (17) "Dispense" means:
- (a) To receive and distribute noncontrolled legend drug samples from pharmaceutical manufacturers to patients at no charge to the patient or any other party; or
 - (b) To distribute noncontrolled legend drugs from a local, district, and independent health department, subject to the direction of the appropriate governing board of the individual health department;
- (18) "Dialysis care" means a process by which dissolved substances are removed from a patient's body by diffusion, osmosis, and convection from one (1) fluid compartment to another across a semipermeable membrane;
- (19) "Dialysis technician" means a person who is not a nurse, a physician assistant, or a physician and who provides dialysis care in a licensed renal dialysis facility under the direct, on-site supervision of a registered nurse or a physician;
- ~~(20) "Clinical internship" means a supervised nursing practice experience which involves any component of direct patient care;~~
- ~~(21)~~ "Population focus" means the section of the population within which the advanced practice registered nurse has targeted to practice. The categories of population foci are:
- (a) Family or individual across the lifespan;
 - (b) Adult health and gerontology;
 - (c) Neonatology;
 - (d) Pediatrics;
 - (e) Women's health and gender-related health; and
 - (f) Psychiatric mental health; and
- ~~(21)~~~~(22)~~ "Conviction" means but is not limited to:
- (a) An unvacated adjudication of guilt;
 - (b) Pleading no contest or nolo contendere or entering an Alford plea; or
 - (c) Entering a guilty plea pursuant to a pretrial diversion order;

Regardless of whether the penalty is rebated, suspended, or probated.

➔Section 2. KRS 314.041 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) An applicant for a license to practice as a registered nurse shall file with the board a written application for a license and submit evidence, verified by oath, that the applicant:
 - (a) Has completed the basic curriculum for preparing registered nurses in an approved school of nursing and has completed requirements for graduation therefrom;
 - (b) Has fulfilled the requirements of KRS 214.615(1);~~and~~
 - (c) Is able to understandably speak and write the English language and to read the English language with comprehension; *and*
 - (d) ***Has passed the jurisprudence examination approved by the board as provided by subsection (4) of this section.***
- (2) An applicant shall be required to pass ***a licensure***~~an~~ examination in any subjects as the board may determine~~and, beginning January 1, 2006, complete the clinical internship in accordance with subsection (4) of this section~~. Application for licensure by examination shall be received by the board at the time determined by the board by administrative regulation.
- (3) Upon request, an applicant who meets the requirements of subsection (1) of this section shall be issued a provisional license that shall expire no later than six (6) months from the date of issuance.~~[This period of time may be extended at the discretion of the board upon the provisional licensee showing that he or she has a temporary physical or mental inability to complete the clinical internship within six (6) months. The provisional licensee shall provide evidence as requested by the board to substantiate this inability.]~~
- (4) ***The jurisprudence examination shall be prescribed by the board and be conducted on the licensing requirements under this chapter and board regulations and requirements applicable to the nursing profession in this Commonwealth. The board shall promulgate an administrative regulation in accordance with KRS Chapter 13A establishing the provisions to meet this requirement***~~[The clinical internship shall last a minimum of one hundred twenty (120) hours and shall be completed within six (6) months of the issuance of the provisional license, unless an extension has been granted by the board pursuant to subsection (3) of this section. The board shall promulgate an administrative regulation in accordance with KRS Chapter 13A to establish procedures applicable to the documentation of completion of the internship. The internship may be completed during a clinical orientation period in a practice setting].~~
- (5) An individual who holds a provisional license shall have the right to use the title "registered nurse applicant" and the abbreviation "R.N.A." An R.N.A. shall only work under the direct supervision of a registered nurse and shall not engage in independent nursing practice.
- (6) Upon the applicant's successful completion of all requirements for registered nurse licensure, the board may issue to the applicant a license to practice nursing as a registered nurse, if in the determination of the board the applicant is qualified to practice as a registered nurse in this state.
- (7) The board may issue a license to practice nursing as a registered nurse to any applicant who has passed the ***licensure examination and the jurisprudence examination*** prescribed by the board or ***their***~~its~~ equivalent and been licensed as a registered nurse under the laws of another state, territory, or foreign country, if in the opinion of the board the applicant is qualified to practice as a registered nurse in this state.~~[An applicant who has not practiced as a registered nurse in another state or territory for at least one hundred twenty (120) hours within the first year following graduation from a school of nursing shall be required to complete the clinical internship in accordance with subsection (4) of this section. The board shall promulgate an administrative regulation in accordance with KRS Chapter 13A establishing the provisions to meet this requirement.]~~
- (8) The applicant for licensure to practice as a registered nurse shall pay a licensure application fee, and ***licensure*** examination fees if applicable, as set forth in a regulation by the board promulgated pursuant to the provisions of KRS Chapter 13A.
- (9) Any person who holds a license to practice as a registered nurse in this state shall have the right to use the title "registered nurse" and the abbreviation "R.N." No other person shall assume the title or use the abbreviation or any other words, letters, signs, or figures to indicate that the person using the same is a registered nurse. No person shall practice as a registered nurse unless licensed under this section.

- (10) (a) ~~Until November 1, 2006, those persons previously licensed by the board and not engaged in the practice of nursing in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, but desiring to maintain the right to use the title "R.N." may apply and be granted inactive status by the board in accordance with regulations promulgated by the board. Inactive status shall be renewed in accordance with regulations promulgated by the board in accordance with KRS Chapter 13A and those persons granted inactive status shall not be governed by the continuing competency provisions contained in this chapter. A registered nurse on inactive status may petition the board for a renewal of a license to actively practice and shall complete the requirements as established in KRS Chapter 314 and by regulation of the board. Inactive status licenses shall not be issued for renewal after October 31, 2006.~~
- (b) On November 1, 2006, and thereafter, a registered nurse who is retired, upon payment of a one-time fee, may apply for a special license in recognition of the nurse's retired status. A retired nurse may not practice nursing but may use the title "registered nurse" and the abbreviation "R.N."
- (b)(c) A retired registered nurse who wishes to return to the practice of nursing shall apply for reinstatement.
- (c)(d) The board shall promulgate an administrative regulation pursuant to KRS Chapter 13A to specify the fee required in paragraph (a) of this subsection (b) and reinstatement under paragraph (b)(c) of this subsection.
- (11) Any person heretofore licensed as a registered nurse under the licensing laws of this state who has allowed the license to lapse by failure to renew may apply for reinstatement of the license under the provisions of this chapter. *A person whose license has lapsed for one (1) year or more shall pass the jurisprudence examination approved by the board as provided in subsection (4) of this section.*
- (12) A license to practice registered nursing may be limited by the board in accordance with regulations promulgated by the board and as defined in this chapter.
- (13) A graduate of an approved prelicensure registered nurse program who has not successfully completed the licensure examination for registered nurses shall be eligible for admission to the licensure examination for licensed practical nurses following successful completion of a board-approved practical nursing role delineation course. This course shall include content on the roles and responsibilities of a licensed practical nurse and direct supervised clinical instruction.
- (14) A person who has completed a prelicensure registered nurse program and holds a current, active licensed practical nurse license from another jurisdiction may apply for licensure by endorsement as a licensed practical nurse in this state.

➔Section 3. KRS 314.051 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) An applicant for a license to practice as a licensed practical nurse shall file with the board a written application for a license verified by oath, that the applicant:
- (a) Has fulfilled the requirements of KRS 214.615(1);
- (b) Has completed the required educational program in practical nursing at an approved school of nursing and has completed requirements for graduation therefrom;~~and~~
- (c) Is able to understandably speak and write the English language and to read the English language with comprehension; *and*
- (d) *Has passed the jurisprudence examination approved by the board as provided by subsection (4) of this section.*
- (2) The applicant for licensure to practice as a licensed practical nurse shall pay a licensure application fee, and *licensure* examination fees if applicable, as set forth in a regulation by the board.
- (3) An applicant shall be required to pass *a licensure*~~an~~ examination in any subjects the board may determine~~and, beginning January 1, 2006, complete the clinical internship in accordance with subsection (5) of this section~~. Application for licensure by examination shall be received by the board at the time determined by the board by administrative regulation.
- (4) *The jurisprudence examination shall be prescribed by the board and be conducted on the licensing requirements under this chapter and board regulations and requirements applicable to the nursing profession in this Commonwealth. The board shall promulgate an administrative regulation in accordance with KRS Chapter 13A establishing the provisions to meet this requirement.*

- (5) Upon request, an applicant who meets the requirements of subsection (1) of this section shall be issued a provisional license that shall expire no later than six (6) months from the date of issuance. ~~This period of time may be extended at the discretion of the board upon the provisional licensee showing that he or she has a temporary physical or mental inability to complete the clinical internship within six (6) months. The provisional licensee shall provide evidence as requested by the board to substantiate this inability.~~
- ~~(5) The clinical internship shall last a minimum of one hundred twenty (120) hours and shall be completed within six (6) months of the issuance of the provisional license, unless an extension has been granted by the board pursuant to subsection (4) of this section. The board shall promulgate an administrative regulation in accordance with KRS Chapter 13A to establish procedures applicable to the documentation of completion of the internship. The internship may be completed during a clinical orientation period in a practice setting.]~~
- (6) An individual who holds a provisional license shall have the right to use the title "licensed practical nurse applicant" and the abbreviation "L.P.N.A." An L.P.N.A. shall only work under the direct supervision of a nurse and shall not engage in independent nursing practice.
- (7) Upon the applicant's successful completion of all requirements for licensed practical nurse licensure, the board may issue to the applicant a license to practice as a licensed practical nurse if, in the determination of the board, the applicant is qualified to practice as a licensed practical nurse in this state.
- (8) The board may issue a license to practice as a licensed practical nurse to any applicant who has passed the *licensure examination and the jurisprudence examination* prescribed by the board or ~~their~~^{its} equivalent, and has been licensed or registered as a licensed practical nurse or a person licensed to perform similar services under a different title, under the laws of another state, territory or foreign country if, in the opinion of the board, the applicant meets the requirements for a licensed practical nurse in this state. ~~An applicant who has not practiced as a licensed practical nurse in another state or territory for at least one hundred twenty (120) hours within the first year following graduation from a school of nursing shall be required to complete the clinical internship in accordance with subsection (5) of this section. The board shall promulgate an administrative regulation in accordance with KRS Chapter 13A establishing the provisions to meet this requirement.]~~
- (9) Any person who holds a license to practice as a licensed practical nurse in this state shall have the right to use the title "licensed practical nurse" and the abbreviation "L.P.N." No other person shall assume the title or use the abbreviation or any other words, letters, signs, or figures to indicate that the person using the same is a licensed practical nurse. No person shall practice as a licensed practical nurse unless licensed under this chapter.
- (10) ~~(a) [Until November 1, 2005, those persons previously licensed by the board and not engaged in the practice of nursing in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, but desiring to maintain the right to use the title "L.P.N." may apply and be granted inactive status by the board in accordance with regulations promulgated by the board. Inactive status shall be renewed in accordance with administrative regulations promulgated by the board in accordance with KRS Chapter 13A, and those persons granted inactive status shall not be governed by the continuing competency provisions contained in this chapter. A licensed practical nurse on inactive status may petition the board for a renewal of a license to actively practice and shall complete the requirements as established in this chapter and by regulation of the board. Inactive status licenses shall not be issued for renewal after October 31, 2005.~~
- ~~(b) [Beginning November 1, 2005, for a licensed practical nurse who is retired, upon payment of a one-time fee, the board may issue a special license to a licensed practical nurse in recognition of the nurse's retired status. A retired nurse may not practice nursing but may use the title "licensed practical nurse" and the abbreviation "L.P.N."]~~
- ~~(b)(c) [A retired licensed practical nurse who wishes to return to the practice of nursing shall apply for reinstatement.~~
- ~~(c)(d) [The board shall promulgate an administrative regulation pursuant to KRS Chapter 13A to specify the fee required in paragraph (a) of this subsection] and reinstatement under paragraph (b)(c) of this subsection.~~
- (11) Any person heretofore licensed as a practical nurse under the licensing laws of this state who has allowed the license to lapse by failure to renew may apply for reinstatement of the license under the provisions of this chapter. *A person whose license has lapsed for one (1) year or more shall pass the jurisprudence examination approved by the board as provided in subsection (4) of this section.*

- (12) A license to practice practical nursing may be limited by the board in accordance with regulations promulgated by the board and as defined in this chapter.

➔Section 4. KRS 314.073 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) ~~[Except for the first licensure renewal following the issuance of an original license by the board,]~~As a prerequisite for license renewal, all individuals licensed under provisions of this chapter shall be required to document continuing competency during the immediate past licensure period as prescribed in regulations promulgated by the board.
- (2) The continuing competency requirement shall be documented and reported as set forth by the board in administrative regulations promulgated in accordance with KRS Chapter 13A.
- (3) The board shall approve providers of continuing education. The approval may include recognition of providers approved by national organizations and state boards of nursing with comparable standards. Standards for these approvals shall be set by the board in administrative regulations promulgated in accordance with the provisions of KRS Chapter 13A.
- (4) The board shall work cooperatively with professional nursing organizations, approved nursing schools, and other potential sources of continuing education programs to assure that adequate continuing education offerings are available statewide. The board may enter into contractual agreements to implement the provisions of this section.
- (5) The board shall be responsible for notifying applicants for licensure and licensees applying for license renewal, of continuing competency requirements.
- (6) The continuing competency requirements shall include the completion of the course described in KRS 214.610(1) at least one (1) time every ten (10) years, but the board may in its discretion require completion of the course more frequently.
- (7) As a part of the continuing education requirements that the board adopts to ensure continuing competency of present and future licensees, the board shall ensure practitioners licensed under KRS Chapter 314 complete a one-time training course of at least one and one-half (1.5) hours covering the recognition and prevention of pediatric abusive head trauma, as defined in KRS 620.020. The one and one-half (1.5) hours required under this section shall be included in the current number of required continuing education hours. Current practicing nurses shall demonstrate completion of this course by December 31, 2013.
- (8) In order to offset administrative costs incurred in the implementation of the mandatory continuing competency requirements, the board may charge reasonable fees as established by regulation in accordance with the provisions of KRS Chapter 13A.
- (9) The continuing competency requirements shall include at least five (5) contact hours in pharmacology continuing education for any person registered as an advanced practice registered nurse.

Signed by Governor March 16, 2011.