

SUBCHAPTER 3 – LICENSING

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17-87-301. Registered nurses.

(a) Qualifications. Before taking the examination or before the issuance of a license by endorsement, an applicant for a license to practice professional nursing shall submit to the Arkansas State Board of Nursing written evidence, verified by oath, that the applicant:

- (1) Has completed an approved high school course of study or the equivalent thereof as determined by the appropriate educational agency; and
- (2) Has completed the required approved professional nursing education program.

(b) Issuance of License. A license to practice as a registered nurse may be issued:

- (1) By Examination. The applicant shall be required to pass an examination in such subjects as the board may determine. Upon successfully passing the examination, the board shall issue to the applicant a license to practice professional nursing as a registered nurse; or
- (2) By Endorsement. The board may issue a license to practice professional nursing as a registered nurse by endorsement to an applicant who has been duly licensed as a registered nurse under the laws of another state, territory, or foreign country if, in the opinion of the board, the applicant meets the qualifications required of registered nurses in this state at the time of graduation and if the board so recommends.

(c) Nurses Registered Before March 29, 1971. Any person holding a license or certificate of registration to practice nursing as a registered nurse issued by the board which was valid on March 29, 1971, shall be deemed to be licensed as a registered nurse under the provisions of this chapter.

(d) Title and Abbreviation. Any person who holds a license to practice professional nursing in this state shall have the right to use the title “registered nurse” and the abbreviation “R.N.”.

History

Acts 1971, No. 432, § 10; 1979, No. 613, § 3; 1981 (1st Ex. Sess.), No. 19, §§ 1-3; A.S.A. 1947, § 72-754; Acts 1991, No. 162, § 1; 1995, No. 409, § 8; 2019, No. 990, § 73.

17-87-302. Advanced practice registered nurses.

(a) Qualifications. In order to be licensed as an advanced practice registered nurse, an applicant shall show evidence of education approved by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing, and national certification approved by the board under one (1) of the following roles of an advanced practice registered nurse:

- (1) Certified Nurse Practitioner. A certified nurse practitioner shall hold current certification by a national certifying body recognized by the board in the advanced practice registered nurse role and population foci appropriate to educational preparation;

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(2) Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist. To qualify as a certified registered nurse anesthetist, an applicant shall:

(A) Have earned a diploma or certificate evidencing satisfactory completion, beyond generic nursing preparation, of a formal educational program that meets the standards of the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs or another nationally recognized accrediting body and that has as its objective the preparation of nurses to perform as nurse anesthetists; and

(B) Hold current certification by a national certifying body recognized by the board in the advanced practice registered nurse role and population foci appropriate to educational preparation;

(3) Certified Nurse Midwife. To qualify as a certified nurse midwife, an applicant shall:

(A) Hold current certification by a national certifying body recognized by the board in the advanced practice registered nurse role and population foci appropriate to educational preparation; and

(B) Have an agreement with a consulting physician if providing intrapartum care; or

(4) Clinical Nurse Specialist. In order to qualify as a clinical nurse specialist, an applicant shall:

(A) Hold a master's degree evidencing successful completion of a graduate program in nursing, which shall include supervised clinical practice and classroom instruction in a nursing specialty; and

(B) Hold current certification by a national certifying body recognized by the board in the advanced practice registered nurse role and population foci appropriate to educational preparation.

(b) Issuance of License. A license to practice as an advanced practice registered nurse may be issued:

(1) By Application. Any person holding a license to practice as a registered nurse and meeting the educational qualifications and certification requirements to be licensed as an advanced practice registered nurse, upon application and payment of necessary fees to the board, may be licensed as an advanced practice registered nurse; and

(2) By Endorsement. The board may issue a license to practice advanced practice registered nursing by endorsement to any applicant who has been licensed as an advanced practice registered nurse or to a person entitled 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 advanced practice registered nurses in this state.

(c) Title and Abbreviation. Any person who holds a license to practice as an advanced practice registered nurse shall have the right to use the title of "advanced practice registered nurse" and the abbreviation "A.P.R.N."

History

Acts 1971, No. 432, § 2; 1979, No. 404, §§ 1, 7; 1979, No. 613, § 2; 1980 (1st Ex. Sess.), No. 14, §§ 5, 6; 1981 (1st Ex. Sess.), No. 19, § 8; A.S.A. 1947, §§ 72-746, 72-756.1, 72-756.2; Acts 1995, No. 409, § 9; 1999, No. 1208, § 2; 2013, No. 604, § 12.

17-87-303. Registered nurse practitioners.

(a)

(1) Any person holding a license to practice as a registered nurse and possessing the educational qualifications required under subsection (b) of this section to be licensed as a registered nurse practitioner, upon application and payment of necessary fees to the Arkansas State Board of Nursing, may be licensed as a registered nurse

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practitioner and have the right to use the title of “registered nurse practitioner” and the abbreviation “R.N.P.”.

(2) No other person shall assume such a title or use such an abbreviation or any other words, letters, signs, or devices to indicate that the person using them is a registered nurse practitioner.

(b) In order to be licensed as a registered nurse practitioner, a registered nurse must hold a certificate or academic degree evidencing successful completion of the educational program of an accredited school of nursing or other nationally recognized accredited program recognized by the board as meeting the requirements of a nurse practitioner program.

(c) However, any person qualified to receive a license as a registered nurse practitioner may obtain the license upon the payment of a fee not to exceed twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for the original license. The license fees are to be in addition to the person's registered nurse license fees.

History

Acts 1971, No. 432, §§ 2, 10; 1979, No. 404, §§ 1, 7; 1979, No. 613, §§ 2, 3; 1981 (1st Ex. Sess.), No. 19, §§ 1-3; A.S.A. 1947, §§ 72-746, 72-754.

17-87-304. Licensed practical nurses.

(a) Qualifications. An applicant for a license to practice practical nursing shall submit to the Arkansas State Board of Nursing evidence, verified by oath, that the applicant:

(1) Has completed an approved high school course of study or the equivalent thereof as determined by the appropriate educational agency; and

(2) Has completed a prescribed curriculum in a state-approved program for the preparation of practical nurses and holds a diploma or certificate therefrom. However, the board may waive this requirement if the board determines the applicant to be otherwise qualified.

(b) Issuance of License. A license to practice as a practical nurse may be issued:

(1) By Examination. The applicant shall be required to pass an examination in such subjects as the board may determine. Upon successful completion of the examination, the board shall issue to the applicant a license to practice as a licensed practical nurse; or

(2) By Endorsement. The board may issue a license to practice practical nursing by endorsement to any applicant who has duly been licensed or registered as a licensed practical nurse or to a person entitled 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 licensed practical nurses in this state at the time of graduation and if the board so recommends.

(c) Person Licensed Before March 29, 1971. Any person holding a license to practice as a practical nurse issued by the board and which was valid on March 29, 1971, shall be deemed to be licensed as a practical nurse under the provisions of this chapter.

(d) Title and Abbreviation. Any person who holds a license to practice practical nursing in this state shall have the right to use the title “licensed practical nurse” and the abbreviation “L.P.N.”.

History

Acts 1971, No. 432, § 11; 1981, No. 54, § 1; 1981 (1st Ex. Sess.), No. 19, §§ 4, 5; A.S.A. 1947, § 72-755; Acts 1991, No. 162, § 2; 1995, No. 409, § 10; 2019, No. 990, § 74.