

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 410

An act relating to the Department of Health; amending s. 456.013, F.S.; eliminating a requirement that the department issue wall certificates; amending s. 456.017, F.S.; prohibiting the use of a state-developed examination if a national examination has been certified by the department; revising the criteria under which an applicant may challenge the validity of an examination; authorizing the department to post examination scores on the Internet in lieu of mailing the scores to each applicant; amending s. 456.036, F.S.; providing for a retired-status license; providing a fee for changing to retired status at the time of license renewal; requiring an additional fee if retired status is chosen at any time other than at the time of license renewal; authorizing each board or the department to reexamine a licensee who has been retired or inactive for a specified period in order to assess the licensee's competency; amending s. 464.201, F.S.; defining the phrase "practice of a certified nursing assistant"; amending s. 464.202, F.S.; requiring the Board of Nursing to adopt rules specifying the scope of practice and level of supervision required for certified nursing assistants; amending s. 464.203, F.S.; requiring the biennial renewal of certification as a nursing assistant; reducing the number of required hours of inservice training for certified nursing assistants; providing a fee for certification renewal; amending s. 456.041, F.S.; requiring that information relating to liability and disciplinary actions be included in the practitioner profile; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 456.013, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

456.013 Department; general licensing provisions.—

(2) Before the issuance of any license, the department shall charge an initial license fee as determined by the applicable board or, if there is no such board exists, by rule of the department. Upon receipt of the appropriate license fee, the department shall issue a license to any person certified by the appropriate board, or its designee, as having met the licensure requirements imposed by law or rule. The license shall consist of a wallet-size identification card and a wall card measuring 6½ inches by 5 inches. ~~In addition to the two-part license, the department, at the time of initial licensure, shall issue a wall certificate suitable for conspicuous display, which shall be no smaller than 8½ inches by 14 inches. The licensee shall surrender to the department the wallet-size identification card and, the wall card, and the wall certificate, if one has been issued by the department, if the licensee's license is issued in error or is revoked.~~

Section 2. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) and subsection (2) of section 456.017, Florida Statutes, are amended, and subsection (7) is added to that section, to read:

456.017 Examinations.—

(1)

(c)1. The board, or the department when there is no board, shall approve by rule the use of one or more national examinations that ~~which~~ the department has certified as meeting requirements of national examinations and generally accepted testing standards pursuant to department rules.

1. ~~Providers of examinations seeking certification by the department shall pay the actual costs incurred by the department in making a determination regarding the certification. The name and number of a candidate may be provided to a national contractor for the limited purpose of preparing the grade tape and information to be returned to the board or department; or, to the extent otherwise specified by rule, the candidate may apply directly to the vendor of the national examination and supply test score information to the department. The department may delegate to the board the duty to provide and administer the examination. Any national examination approved by a board, or the department when there is no board, prior to October 1, 1997, is deemed certified under this paragraph.~~

~~2. The board, or the department when there is no board, shall approve and begin administering a national examination no later than December 31, 2001. Neither the board nor the department may administer a state-developed written examination if a national examination has been certified by the department after December 31, 2001, notwithstanding any other provision of law. The examination may be administered electronically if adequate security measures are used, as determined by rule of the department.~~

3. The board, or the department when there is no board, may administer a state-developed practical or clinical examination, as required by the applicable practice act, if all costs of development, purchase, validation, administration, review, and defense are paid by the examination candidate prior to the administration of the examination. If a national practical or clinical examination is available and certified by the department pursuant to this section, the board, or the department when there is no board, may administer the national examination.

4. It is the intent of the Legislature to reduce the costs associated with state examinations and to encourage the use of national examinations whenever possible.

(2) For each examination developed by the department or a contracted vendor, the board, or the department when there is no board, shall adopt rules providing for reexamination of any applicants who failed an examination developed by the department or a contracted vendor. If both a written and a practical examination are given, an applicant shall be required to retake only the portion of the examination on which the applicant failed to achieve a passing grade, if the applicant successfully passes that portion within a reasonable time, as determined by rule of the board, or the department when there is no board, of passing the other portion. Except for national examinations approved and administered pursuant to this section,

the department shall provide procedures for applicants who fail an examination developed by the department or a contracted vendor to review their examination questions, answers, papers, grades, and grading key for the questions the candidate answered incorrectly or, if not feasible, the parts of the examination failed. Applicants shall bear the actual cost for the department to provide examination review pursuant to this subsection. An applicant may waive in writing the confidentiality of the applicant's examination grades. Notwithstanding any other provisions, only candidates who fail an examination with a score that is by less than 10 percent below the minimum score required to pass the examination shall be entitled to challenge the validity of the examination at hearing.

(7) The department may post examination scores electronically on the Internet in lieu of mailing the scores to each applicant. The electronic posting of the examination scores meets the requirements of chapter 120 if the department also posts along with the examination scores a notification of the rights set forth in chapter 120. The date of receipt for purposes of chapter 120 is the date the examination scores are posted electronically. The department shall also notify the applicant when scores are posted electronically of the availability of post-examination review, if applicable.

Section 3. Subsections (1), (2), (4), (10), (11), (12), and (13) of section 456.036, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

456.036 Licenses; active and inactive status; delinquency.—

(1) A licensee may practice a profession only if the licensee has an active status license. A licensee who practices a profession with an inactive status license, a retired status license, or a delinquent without an active status license is in violation of this section and s. 456.072, and the board, or the department if there is no board, may impose discipline on the licensee.

(2) Each board, or the department if there is no board, shall permit a licensee to choose, at the time of licensure renewal, an active, ~~or~~ inactive, or retired status.

(4) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, a licensee may change licensure status at any time.

(a) Active status licensees choosing inactive status at the time of license renewal must pay the inactive status renewal fee, and, if applicable, the delinquency fee and the fee to change licensure status. Active status licensees choosing inactive status at any other time than at the time of license renewal must pay the fee to change licensure status.

(b) An active status licensee or an inactive status licensee who chooses retired status at the time of license renewal must pay the retired-status fee, which may not exceed \$50 as established by rule of the board or the department if there is no board. An active status licensee or inactive status licensee who chooses retired status at any time other than at the time of license renewal must pay the retired-status fee plus a change-of-status fee.

~~(c)~~(b) An inactive status licensee may change to active status at any time, if the licensee meets all requirements for active status. Inactive status

licensees choosing active status at the time of license renewal must pay the active status renewal fee, any applicable reactivation fees as set by the board, or the department if there is no board, and, if applicable, the delinquency fee and the fee to change licensure status. Inactive status licensees choosing active status at any other time than at the time of license renewal must pay the difference between the inactive status renewal fee and the active status renewal fee, if any exists, any applicable reactivation fees as set by the board, or the department if there is no board, and the fee to change licensure status.

(10) Each board, or the department if there is no board, may by rule impose reasonable conditions, including full reexamination to assess current competency, in order to ensure that a licensee who has been on retired status for more than 5 years, or a licensee from another state who has not been in active practice within the past 5 years, and who applies for active status is able to practice with the care and skill sufficient to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public. Requirements for reactivation of a license may differ depending on the length of time a licensee has been retired.

~~(11)~~(10) Before reactivation, an inactive status licensee or a delinquent licensee who was inactive prior to becoming delinquent must meet the same continuing education requirements, if any, imposed on an active status licensee for all biennial licensure periods in which the licensee was inactive or delinquent.

(12) Before the license of a retired status licensee is reactivated, the licensee must meet the same requirements for continuing education, if any, and pay any renewal fees imposed on an active status licensee for all biennial licensure periods during which the licensee was on retired status.

~~(13)~~(11) The status or a change in status of a licensee does not alter in any way the right of the board, or of the department if there is no board, to impose discipline or to enforce discipline previously imposed on a licensee for acts or omissions committed by the licensee while holding a license, whether active, inactive, retired, or delinquent.

~~(14)~~(12) This section does not apply to a business establishment registered, permitted, or licensed by the department to do business.

~~(15)~~(13) The board, or the department when there is no board, may adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 as necessary to implement this section.

Section 4. Present subsection (5) of section 464.201, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (6), and a new subsection (5) is added to that section, to read:

464.201 Definitions.—As used in this part, the term:

(5) “Practice of a certified nursing assistant” means providing care and assisting persons with tasks relating to the activities of daily living. Such tasks are those associated with personal care, maintaining mobility, nutrition and hydration, toileting and elimination, assistive devices, safety and

cleanliness, data gathering, reporting abnormal signs and symptoms, post-mortem care, patient socialization and reality orientation, end-of-life care, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and emergency care, residents' or patients' rights, documentation of nursing-assistant services, and other tasks that a certified nurse assistant may perform after training beyond that required for initial certification and upon validation of competence in that skill by a registered nurse. This subsection does not restrict the ability of any person who is otherwise trained and educated from performing such tasks.

Section 5. Section 464.202, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

464.202 Duties and powers of the board.—The board shall maintain, or contract with or approve another entity to maintain, a state registry of certified nursing assistants. The registry must consist of the name of each certified nursing assistant in this state; other identifying information defined by board rule; certification status; the effective date of certification; other information required by state or federal law; information regarding any crime or any abuse, neglect, or exploitation as provided under chapter 435; and any disciplinary action taken against the certified nursing assistant. The registry shall be accessible to the public, the certificateholder, employers, and other state agencies. The board shall adopt by rule testing procedures for use in certifying nursing assistants and shall adopt rules regulating the practice of certified nursing assistants and specifying the scope of practice authorized and the level of supervision required for the practice of certified nursing assistants ~~to enforce this part~~. The board may contract with or approve another entity or organization to provide the examination services, including the development and administration of examinations. The board shall require that the contract provider offer certified nursing assistant applications via the Internet, and may require the contract provider to accept certified nursing assistant applications for processing via the Internet. The board shall require the contract provider to provide the preliminary results of the certified nursing examination on the date the test is administered. The provider shall pay all reasonable costs and expenses incurred by the board in evaluating the provider's application and performance during the delivery of services, including examination services and procedures for maintaining the certified nursing assistant registry.

Section 6. Subsections (5) and (7) of section 464.203, Florida Statutes, are amended, and subsection (8) is added to that section, to read:

464.203 Certified nursing assistants; certification requirement.—

(5) Certification as a nursing assistant, in accordance with this part, may be renewed ~~continues in effect~~ until such time as the nursing assistant allows a period of 24 consecutive months to pass during which period the nursing assistant fails to perform any nursing-related services for monetary compensation. When a nursing assistant fails to perform any nursing-related services for monetary compensation for a period of 24 consecutive months, the nursing assistant must complete a new training and competency evaluation program or a new competency evaluation program.

(7) A certified nursing assistant shall complete 12 ~~18~~ hours of inservice training during each calendar year. The certified nursing assistant shall be

responsible for maintaining documentation demonstrating compliance with these provisions. The Council on Certified Nursing Assistants, in accordance with s. 464.2085(2)(b), shall propose rules to implement this subsection.

(8) The department shall renew a certificate upon receipt of the renewal application and imposition of a fee of not less than \$20 and not more than \$50 biennially. The department shall adopt rules establishing a procedure for the biennial renewal of certificates. Any certificate that is not renewed by July 1, 2006, is void.

Section 7. Subsection (1) of section 456.041, Florida Statutes, as amended by Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 940 enacted in the 2005 Regular Session of the Legislature, is amended to read:

456.041 Practitioner profile; creation.—

(1)(a) The Department of Health shall compile the information submitted pursuant to s. 456.039 into a practitioner profile of the applicant submitting the information, except that the Department of Health shall develop a format to compile uniformly any information submitted under s. 456.039(4)(b). Beginning July 1, 2001, the Department of Health may compile the information submitted pursuant to s. 456.0391 into a practitioner profile of the applicant submitting the information.

(b) Beginning July 1, 2005, the department shall verify the information submitted by the applicant under s. 456.039 concerning disciplinary history and medical malpractice claims at the time of initial licensure and license renewal using the National Practitioner Data Bank. The physician profiles shall reflect the disciplinary action and medical malpractice claims as reported by the National Practitioner Data Bank, and shall include information relating to liability and disciplinary actions obtained as a result of a search of the National Practitioner Data Bank.

(c) Within 30 calendar days after receiving an update of information required for the practitioner's profile, the department shall update the practitioner's profile in accordance with the requirements of subsection (7).

Section 8. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.

Approved by the Governor May 26, 2005.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 26, 2005.