



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

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NURSING LICENSE RENEWALS

House Bill 5906

Sponsor: Rep. Sue Rocca

Committee: Health Policy

Complete to 11-19-96

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 5906 AS INTRODUCED 5-28-96

House Bill 5906 would amend the Public Health Code to establish continuing education credit requirements and to require certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation as a condition for renewal of a nursing license or for relicensure. These particular provisions would become effective two years after the effective date of the bill. The bill would also amend provisions of the act concerning the waiver of certain educational requirements for license renewals, and the assessment of the continued competence of licensees as a condition of renewal.

Waiver of Educational Requirements. Currently, under the code, a board that requires evidence of attendance at educational programs as a condition of license renewal may waive the requirement if it determines that the failure of the licensee to attend was due to the licensee's disability, military service, absence from the continental United States, or a circumstance beyond the control of the licensee that the board considers satisfactory. House Bill 5906 would amend the code to clarify that a board could waive attendance at one or more educational programs as a condition of license renewal.

Assessing Licensee Competence. The code specifies that a board may promulgate rules to establish a system of assessing the continued competence of licensees as a condition of periodic license renewal. The bill would add that this provision would apply unless the system of assessing continued competence was established in the part of the act under which that health profession was regulated.

Nurses' License Renewals and Relicensure. The bill would establish continuing education requirements for nursing licensure renewals, and for relicensure, for applications that were filed two years or more after the effective date of the bill. The bill would require that an applicant for a nursing license who had been licensed for the two-year period immediately preceding the license expiration date, or an applicant for relicensure whose nursing license had expired and was being renewed within three years of the expiration date, would have to accumulate at least 25 continuing education contact hours during the two years preceding an application. In addition, the bill would specify that submission of an application for a license renewal or for relicensure would constitute the applicant's certification of compliance with the provisions of the bill, and the applicant would have to retain documentation that he or she had met the requirements of the bill for at least four years after the application date. Failure to comply with these provisions would be considered a violation of the requirements of the act and would be grounds for an investigation by the Department of Consumer and Industry Services.

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Completion of Continuing Education Contact Hours. Under the bill, a licensee could earn continuing education contact hours as follows:

- One contact hour could be earned, without limitation, for each 50- or 60-minute attendance at a continuing education program that complied with the standards listed in the bill (see below).

- Three contact hours could be earned for each 50- or 60-minute presentation of a continuing education program that wasn't part of the licensee's regular job description and that complied with the standards set forth in the bill. Credit could be earned for the same program only once in each renewal period. A maximum of six continuing education contact hours could be earned under this provision of the bill.

- Five contact hours could be earned for each semester credit earned for academic courses related to nursing practice and offered in an educational program approved by the Board of Nursing.

- Three contact hours could be earned for each quarter credit earned for academic courses related to nursing practice and offered in a board-approved educational program, as specified under the Administrative Code.

- 25 contact hours could be earned by specialty certification or recertification as either a nurse midwife, a nurse anesthetist, or a nurse practitioner, if the licensee held a valid, current certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation that had been issued by the American Red Cross, the American Heart Association, or a comparable organization.

- Subject to the requirement that an applicant for renewal or relicensure hold a valid certificate in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, a licensee could earn one continuing education contact hour for each 50- to 60-minute attendance, without limitation, at a continuing education program related to nursing practice offered by a board-approved educational program, as specified under the Administrative Code, or by the board of nursing of another state.

- Ten contact hours could be earned for publication in a nursing or health care journal or textbook of an article or chapter related to the practice of nursing or allied care.

- One contact hour could be earned for each documented hour of reading articles or viewing or listening to media devoted to nursing practice, up to a maximum of four hours.

- Ten contact hours could be earned for the year in which an applicant successfully completed a National Nursing Specialty examination.

- One contact hour could be earned for each 50 to 60 minutes -- up to a maximum of four continuing education contact hours -- of documented participation in a health care organization committee dealing with patient care related issues.

- A maximum of ten contact hours could be earned for participation in a workshop dealing with patient care issues, with one contact hour granted for each 50- to 60-minute segment offered by a health care organization or a professional organization that falls outside the methods of approval references specified in the Administrative Code.

- A maximum of one contact hour could be earned for each 50 to 60 minutes of documented reading of a journal and completion of a test developed for continuing nursing practice education.

- One contact hour could be earned for each 50- to 60-minute segment of a cardiopulmonary resuscitation course offered by the American Red Cross, the American Heart Association, or a comparable organization, up to a maximum of four continuing education contact hours.

Compliance Standards. The following standards would apply for licensure and relicensure continuing education requirements, and would be incorporated by reference.

** The American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation, set forth in the publications entitled "*Manual for accreditation as a provider of continuing education in nursing 1991,*" and "*Manual for accreditation as an approver of continuing education in nursing 1991.*"

** The standards and criteria of the National Association for Practical Nurse Education and Service, set forth in the publication, "*National Association for Practical Nurse Education and Service Criteria for Approval of Continuing Education 1986.*"

** The standards, criteria, and guidelines adopted by the National League for Nursing in January, 1983, and the American College of Nurse-Midwives in March, 1988, and set forth in the publication entitled "*The Continuing Education Unit Criteria and Guidelines, Fifth Edition, International Association for Continuing Education and Training.*"

** The standards, requirements, and guidelines adopted in January, 1989, by the Committee on Continuing Medical Education, American Osteopathic Association, as set forth in the publication entitled "*Continuing Medical Education Guide 1989.*"

** The standards of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education on October 29, 1982, in accrediting organizations in institutions offering continuing medical education programs.

** The standards for certification in basic and advanced life support, set forth by the American Heart Association in the "Standards and Guidelines for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation, Emergency Cardiac Care, and Neonatal Resuscitation." and published in the "*Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)* (Volume 268 [16], October 28, 1992).

In addition, as part of the continuing education requirements required under the bill, an applicant for license renewal or relicensure would have to successfully complete the training offered by, and also hold a valid, current certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation issued by, the American Red Cross, the American Heart Association, or a comparable organization.

MCL 16205 et al.

Analyst: R. Young

■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.