
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO NURSES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is a nurse
2 shortage in the State that has been exacerbated by the
3 coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. According to the
4 department of commerce and consumer affairs, almost five
5 thousand nurses left the field between 2019 and mid-year 2021,
6 shrinking the total active workforce from 33,410 in 2019 to
7 28,548 in 2021.

8 The legislature further finds that experienced, highly
9 qualified nurses from other states, territories, or foreign
10 countries may wish to relocate to Hawaii. Certain qualified
11 applicants for licensure by endorsement who are licensed in
12 another state are eligible for a temporary permit to practice in
13 the State while their applications are verified and reviewed.
14 Expanding the eligibility for a temporary permit to certain
15 registered nurses and qualified licensed practical nurses from
16 other territories and foreign jurisdictions will enable more



1 qualified health care professionals to quickly find employment
2 and enter into the State's health care field.

3 The purpose of this Act is to allow for temporary permits
4 to be issued to registered nurses and licensed practical nurses
5 from a territory or foreign country who are seeking a state
6 license by endorsement.

7 SECTION 2. Section 457-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
8 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

9 "(b) Licenses shall be granted either by:

- 10 (1) Examination: The applicant shall be required to pass
11 a written examination in nursing subjects as
12 determined by the board. Upon the applicant's passage
13 of the examination and compliance with the applicable
14 requirements of this chapter and the rules of the
15 board, the board shall issue to the applicant a
16 license to practice nursing as a registered nurse; or
- 17 (2) Endorsement: The board may issue a license to
18 practice nursing as a registered nurse by endorsement
19 to an applicant who has been licensed as a registered
20 nurse under the laws of another state, territory, or
21 foreign country if the applicant has an unencumbered



1 license and, in the opinion of the board, the
2 applicant meets the qualifications required of
3 registered nurses in this State at the time of
4 graduation. Pending verification of a valid,
5 unencumbered license from another state, territory, or
6 foreign country a temporary permit may be issued for
7 employment with a Hawaii employer."

8 SECTION 3. Section 457-8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
9 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

10 "(b) Licenses shall be granted either by:

11 (1) Examination: The applicant shall be required to pass
12 a written examination in nursing subjects as
13 determined by the board. Upon the applicant's passage
14 of the examination and compliance with the applicable
15 requirements of this chapter and the rules of the
16 board, the board shall issue to the applicant a
17 license to practice nursing as a licensed practical
18 nurse; or

19 (2) Endorsement: The board may issue a license to
20 practice nursing as a licensed practical nurse by
21 endorsement to any applicant who has been licensed as



1 a licensed practical nurse, or a person entitled to
 2 perform similar services under a different title,
 3 under the laws of another state, territory, or foreign
 4 country if the applicant has an unencumbered license
 5 and, in the opinion of the board, the applicant meets
 6 the requirements for licensed practical nurses in this
 7 State at the time of graduation. Pending verification
 8 of a valid, unencumbered license from another state,
 9 territory, or foreign country a temporary permit may
 10 be issued for employment with a Hawaii employer."

11 SECTION 4. Section 457-13, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
 12 amended to read as follows:

13 "**§457-13 Exceptions.** This chapter does not prohibit:

- 14 (1) The furnishing of nursing assistance in an emergency;
- 15 (2) The practice of nursing, which is incidental to
 16 [~~their~~] the program of study [~~by~~] of students enrolled
 17 in nursing education programs accredited by the board;
- 18 (3) The practice of nursing under a nonrenewable permit
 19 by:
 20 (A) A graduate of; or



- 1 (B) An applicant who has provided proof that the
2 applicant has completed the entire educational
3 curriculum required for graduation for a nursing
4 license from
5 a school [~~which~~] that is in or under the jurisdiction
6 of the United States [~~7~~] or a foreign jurisdiction, and
7 whose accreditation is recognized by the board;
8 provided that following completion of (A) or (B), the
9 candidate takes the first licensing examination
10 scheduled by any board of nursing recognized by the
11 board and has submitted to the board an application
12 for a license to practice nursing in this State; and
13 provided further that the permit shall be valid for
14 three months or until the results of the licensing
15 examination are received by the board;
- 16 (4) The practice of any legally qualified nurse of another
17 state who is employed by the United States or any
18 bureau, division, or agency thereof, while in the
19 discharge of the nurse's official duties;
- 20 (5) The practice of nursing in connection with healing by
21 prayer or spiritual means alone in accordance with the



1 tenets and practice of any well recognized church or
2 religious denomination, provided that no person
3 practicing such nursing claims to practice as a
4 registered nurse or a licensed practical nurse; or
5 (6) The administration of oral and topical medication and
6 in emergency situations, other premeasured medication,
7 by school health aides as provided in section 321-
8 242."

9 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
10 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

11 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Nurses; Registered Nurses; Licensed Practical Nurses; License; Endorsement; Temporary Permits

Description:

Allows for temporary permits to be issued to registered nurses and licensed practical nurses from a territory or foreign country that are seeking a state license by endorsement. Effective 1/1/2050. (SD1)

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