

LAW RELATEING TO THE REGISTRATION OF NURSES

CHAPTER 449 OF THE ACTS OF 1910.

An Act to Provide for the Registration of Nurses.

Section 1. A Board of Registration of Nurses is hereby established to consist of five members. One member shall be the secretary of the board of registration in medicine, ex officio; the other four members shall, within sixty days after the passage of this act, be appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the council. Three members shall be nurses holding diplomas, each from a different training school for nurses giving at least a two year's course in the theory and practice of nursing in a hospital, and they shall have had at least eight years' experience in nursing the sick. The fifth member shall be a physician who is superintendent of a hospital having a training school for nurses. The four appointive members shall be appointed to serve as follows" one member for one year, one for two years, one for three years and one for four years from the first day of October, nineteen hundred and ten, and until their respective successors are appointed; and there after the governor, with the advice and consent of the council, shall annually before the first day of October, appoint one person qualified aforesaid to hold the office for four years from the first day of October next ensuing. Vacancies in said board shall be filled for the unexpired term in the manner of the original appointment. Any member of the said board may be removed, for caused, by the governor with the advice and consent of the council.

Section 2. The members of said board shall meet at the office of the board of registration in medicine on the second Tuesday of October, nineteen hundred and ten, and annually thereafter, and shall immediately proceed to organize by electing a chairman who shall hold office for the term of one year. The secretary of the board of registration in medicine shall be secretary of the board of registration in nursing, and shall receive as compensation therefor such sums as may be fixed by the governor and council, to be paid from fees received hereunder. The said board shall hold three regular meeting in each year; one on the second Tuesday of January, one on the second Tuesday of April, and one on the second Tuesday of October at the office of the board of registration in medicine, and it may hold additional meetings at such times and places as it may determine.

Section 3. It shall be the duty of said board, immediately upon its organization, to notify all persons engaged in the practice of nursing the sick in the commonwealth of the times, places and subjects of the examinations for registration, by publication in one or more newspapers in each county. Application for registration shall be made upon blanks to be furnished by the board, and shall be signed and sworn to by the applicants. An applicant for registration who shall furnish satisfactory proof that he or she is at least twenty-one years of age, and of good moral character shall, upon payment of a fee of five dollars, be examined by the said board, and, if found to be qualified, shall be registered, with the right to use the title Registered Nurse, and shall receive a certificate thereof from the board signed by the chairman and secretary. An applicant who fails to pass an examination satisfactory to the board, and is therefore refused registration, shall be entitled, within one year after such refusal, to be re-examined at a meeting of the board call for the examination of applicants, without the payment of an additional fee. The said board may, after a hearing, by vote of a majority of its members, annul the registration and cancel the certificate of any nurse; and, without a hearing, may annul the registration and cancel the certificate of any nurse who has been found guilty of a crime or misdemeanor. All fees received by the board shall once a month be paid by its secretary into the treasury of the commonwealth.

Section 4. Examinations shall be partly in writing in the English language and partly in practical work, and shall include the principles and methods of nursing. Due credit shall be given for examination in special branches.

Section 5. Any resident of the commonwealth who shall make application for registration within one year after the passage of this act, and who shall prove to the satisfaction of the board, by affidavit or otherwise, that he or she was actually engaged for five years next prior to the date of application in nursing the since in a competent manner or has had such experience in a hospital or training school as, in the opinion of the board, would justify registration, shall be registered without examination on the payment of a five dollar fee.

Section 6. The board shall have power to register in like manner, without examination, any person who has been registered as a professional nurse in another state under laws which in the opinion of the board maintain a standards substantially similar to that of this act.

Section 7. Each member of the board, except the secretary, shall receive five dollars for each day actually spend in the performance of his or her duties: *provided, however*, that in no event shall the total sum paid to any member of said bard exceed one hundred and fifty dollars in any one year, and the necessary traveling expenses actually incurred in attending the meetings of the board, not exceeding three cents a mile each way. The said compensation and traveling expenses and any incidental expenses necessarily incurred by the board or any member thereof shall, if approved by the board, be paid from the treasury of the commonwealth, but only from the fees paid to the said treasury by the board.

Section 8. The board shall investigate all complaints of violation of the provisions of this act, and report the same the proper prosecuting officers.

Section 9. The board shall keep a record of the names of all persons registered hereunder, and of all the money received and disbursed by it, and a duplicate thereof shall be open to inspection in the office of the secretary of the commonwealth. Said board shall annually, on or before the first day of January, make a report to the governor of the condition of professional nursing in this commonwealth, of all its official acts during the preceding year, and of its receipts and disbursements.

Section 10. Whoever, not being authorized to practice as a registered nurse within this commonwealth, practices or attempts to practice as a registered nurse, or uses the abbreviation R.N., or any other words, letters, or figures to indicate that the person using the same is such as registered nurse, shall for each offence be punished by a fine of not more than one hundred dollars. Whoever becomes registered or attempts to become registered, or whoever practices or attempts to practice, as a registered nurse under false of assumed name, shall for each offence be punished by a fine of not less than one hundred nor more than five hundred dollars, or by imprisonment for three months, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Section 11. This act shall not apply to gratuitous nursing of the sick by friends or members of the family, or to the acts of any person nursing the sick for hire who does not assume to be a registered nurse.

Section 12. The board may make such rules and regulations with reference to procedure hereunder as it may deem expedient, provided that the same are not inconsistent with this act or with nay other law of the commonwealth.

Section 13. For the purpose of the appointment of said board and of the registration of persons by it hereunder, this act shall take effect upon its passage, and it shall take full effect on the first day of October in the year nineteen hundred and ten. [*Approved April 27, 1910.*]