

SUBCHAPTER 2 – ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF NURSING

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17-87-201. Creation – Members.

(a) There is created the Arkansas State Board of Nursing, to be composed of thirteen (13) members to be appointed by the Governor for terms of four (4) years, subject to confirmation by the Senate.

(b)(1) Six (6) members shall be registered nurses whose highest level of educational preparation shall be as follows:

(A) Two (2) diploma-school graduates;

(B) Two (2) associate degree graduates; and

(C) Two (2) baccalaureate degree or post-baccalaureate degree graduates.

(2) Each registered nurse member of the board shall have the following qualifications:

(A) Be an Arkansas resident;

(B) Have at least five (5) years of successful experience as a registered nurse in nursing practice, administration, or teaching;

(C) Be licensed in Arkansas as a registered nurse; and

(D) Have been employed as a registered nurse for at least three (3) years immediately preceding appointment, two (2) of which shall have been in Arkansas.

(c)(1) One (1) member shall be a licensed advanced practice nurse.

(2) The licensed advanced practice nurse board member shall have the following qualifications:

(A) Be an Arkansas resident;

(B) Have at least five (5) years of experience as an advanced practice nurse;

(C) Be licensed in Arkansas as an advanced practice nurse;

(D) Have been actively engaged in nursing for at least three (3) years immediately preceding appointment, two (2) of which shall have been in Arkansas; and

(E) Have a certificate granting prescriptive authority.

(d)(1) Four (4) members shall be licensed practical nurses or licensed psychiatric technician nurses.

(2) Each licensed practical nurse board member or licensed psychiatric technician nurse board member shall have the following qualifications:

(A) Be an Arkansas resident;

(B) Have at least five (5) years of successful experience as a practical nurse or psychiatric technician nurse or as a teacher in an educational program to prepare practitioners of nursing;

(C) Be licensed in Arkansas as a licensed practical nurse or licensed psychiatric technician nurse; and

(D) Have been employed as a licensed practical nurse or as a licensed psychiatric technician nurse for at least three (3) years immediately preceding appointment, two (2) of which shall have been in Arkansas.

(e) One (1) member shall be a lay person representing consumers of health care services.

(f) One (1) member of the board shall not be actively engaged in or retired from the profession of nursing, shall be sixty (60) years of age or older, and shall be the representative of the elderly. This member shall be appointed from the state at large, subject to confirmation by the Senate, and shall be a full voting member but shall not participate in the grading of examinations.

(g) The consumer representative and the representative of the elderly positions may not be filled by the same person.

(h) No member shall be appointed to more than two (2) consecutive terms.

(i) Board members may receive expense reimbursement and stipends in accordance with § 25-16-901 et seq.

(j) The terms of all registered nurse members and advanced practice nurse members shall be four (4) years.

17-87-202. Organization and proceedings.

(a)(1) It shall be the duty of the Arkansas State Board of Nursing to meet regularly at least one (1) time every six (6) months for the purpose of conducting its business.

(2) Special meetings of the board may be called at any time at the pleasure of the president of the Arkansas State Board of Nursing or by the secretary of the Arkansas State Board of Nursing on the request of any three (3) members of the board.

(3) A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the board.

(4) The board shall determine by its own rules the time and manner of giving notice of meetings to its members.

(5) The giving of an examination for licensure shall not be considered as a meeting of the board.

(b) The secretary shall keep a record of the minutes of the meetings of the board, together with a record of the action of the board thereon. The records shall at all reasonable times be open for public inspection.

(c) The board shall maintain an office for the administration of its business. The board shall annually elect a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer from among its members. The president of the board shall be a registered nurse.

(d) The executive director of the board shall be a registered nurse and meet the qualifications required by the board.

17-87-203. Powers and duties.

The Arkansas State Board of Nursing shall have the following powers and responsibilities:

(1)(A) Promulgate whatever regulations it deems necessary for the implementation of this chapter.

(B) No regulation promulgated hereafter by the board shall be effective until reviewed by the Legislative Council and the House Interim Committees on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor and the Senate Interim Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor or appropriate subcommittees thereof of the Arkansas General Assembly;

(2) Cause the prosecution of persons violating this chapter;

(3) Keep a record of all its proceedings;

(4) Make an annual report to the Governor;

(5) Employ personnel necessary for carrying out its functions;

(6) Study, review, develop, and define the nursing scope of practice to state and federal health agencies and to public and private administrative bodies;

(7) Fix the time for holding its regular meetings;

(8) Prescribe minimum standards and approve curricula for educational programs preparing persons for licensure as registered nurses, advanced practice nurses, registered nurse practitioner nurses, licensed practical nurses, and licensed psychiatric technician nurses;

(9) Prescribe minimum standards and approve curricula for educational programs preparing persons for certification as medication assistive persons;

(10) Provide for surveys of such programs at such times as it deems necessary or at the request of the schools;

(11) Approve programs that meet the requirements of this chapter;

(10) Deny or withdraw approval from educational programs for failure to meet prescribed standards;

(11) Examine, certify, and renew the certification of qualified applicants for medication assistive persons;

(14) Examine, license, and renew the licenses of qualified applicants for professional nursing, practical nursing, and psychiatric technician nursing;

(15) License and renew the licenses of qualified applicants for registered nurse practitioner nursing and advanced practice nursing;

(16) Grant certificates of prescriptive authority to qualified advanced practice nurses;

(17) Convene an advisory committee as provided for in this chapter to assist with oversight of prescriptive authority;

(18) Convene an advisory committee as provided for in this chapter to assist with oversight of medication assistive persons;

(19) Establish the maximum number of medication assistive persons who may be supervised by a nurse; and

(20) Conduct disciplinary proceedings as provided for in this chapter.

17-87-204. Deposit of funds.

All funds received by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing shall be deposited in the State Treasury to the credit of the board.

17-87-205. Prescriptive Authority Advisory Committee.

(a)(1) The Prescriptive Authority Advisory Committee is created as an advisory committee to the Arkansas State Board of Nursing.

(2) The committee shall assist the board in implementing the provisions of this chapter regarding prescriptive authority.

(b) The board shall appoint five (5) members, to be approved by the Governor, who have the following qualifications:

(1) Three (3) members shall be advanced practice nurses holding certificates of prescriptive authority;

(2) One (1) member shall be a licensed physician who has been involved in a collaborative practice with a registered nurse practitioner for at least five (5) years; and

(3) One (1) member shall be a licensed pharmacist who has been in practice for at least five (5) years.

(c) Members shall serve three-year terms.

(d) The board may remove any committee member, after notice and hearing, for incapacity, incompetence, neglect of duty, or malfeasance in office.

(e) The members shall serve without compensation, but may receive expense reimbursement in accordance with § 25-16-901 et seq.

17-87-206. Subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum.

(a) The Arkansas State Board of Nursing shall have the power to issue subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum in connection with both its investigations and hearings.

(b) A subpoena duces tecum may require any book, writing, document, or other paper or thing which is germane to an investigation or hearing conducted by the board to be transmitted to the board.

(c)(1) Service of a subpoena shall be as provided by law for the service of subpoenas in civil cases in the circuit courts of this state, and the fees and mileage of officers serving the subpoenas and of witnesses appearing in answer to the subpoenas shall be the same as provided by law for proceedings in civil cases in the circuit courts of this state.

(2)(A) The board shall issue a subpoena or subpoena duces tecum upon the request of any party to a hearing before the board.

(B) The fees and mileage of the officers serving the subpoena and of the witness shall be paid by the party at whose request a witness is subpoenaed.

(d)(1) In the event a person shall have been served with a subpoena or subpoena duces tecum as provided in this section and fails to comply therewith, the board may apply to the circuit court of the county in which the board is conducting its investigation or hearing for an order causing the arrest of the person and directing that the person be brought before the court.

(2) The court shall have the power to punish the disobedient person for contempt as provided by law in the trial of civil cases in the circuit courts of this state.

17-87-207. Continuing education.

(a)(1) The Arkansas State Board of Nursing shall adopt rules setting minimum standards for continuing education to ensure that all licensed nurses remain informed about those technical and professional subjects which the board deems appropriate to nursing practice.

(2) The board shall not require more than twenty (20) hours of continuing education per year.

(b) The board shall make every effort to ensure that the continuing education programs are offered either within the nurse's workplace or at another place convenient to the nurse, whether through live presentation or distance learning.

(c)(1) The board shall adopt rules to prescribe the methods by which the minimum standards for continuing education may be satisfied.

(2) The failure of any licensed nurse to satisfy the minimum standards for continuing education shall be grounds for disciplinary action or non-renewal of the nurse's license, or both.