

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT  
**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5976**

Chapter 177, Laws of 1997

55th Legislature  
1997 Regular Session

USE OF "NURSE" AS PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATION

EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/27/97

Passed by the Senate March 14, 1997  
YEAS 46 NAYS 0

BOB MORTON

**President of the Senate**

Passed by the House April 10, 1997  
YEAS 96 NAYS 2

CLYDE BALLARD

**Speaker of the  
House of Representatives**

Approved April 23, 1997

CERTIFICATE

I, Mike O Connell, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5976** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

MIKE O'CONNELL

**Secretary**

FILED

April 23, 1997 - 4:47 p.m.

GARY LOCKE

**Governor of the State of Washington**

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

---

**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5976**

---

Passed Legislature - 1997 Regular Session

**State of Washington                      55th Legislature                      1997 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Deccio, Wojahn, Wood, Prentice, Franklin, Heavey, McAuliffe, Kline, Patterson, Thibaudeau and Kohl)

Read first time 03/05/97.

1            AN ACT Relating to the use of the title of nurse as a  
2 professionally licensed designation; and amending RCW 18.79.030.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.79.030 and 1994 sp.s. c 9 s 403 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6            (1) It is unlawful for a person to practice or to offer to practice  
7 as a registered nurse in this state unless that person has been  
8 licensed under this chapter. A person who holds a license to practice  
9 as a registered nurse in this state may use the titles "registered  
10 nurse" and "nurse" and the abbreviation "R.N." No other person may  
11 assume ((that)) those titles or use the abbreviation or any other  
12 words, letters, signs, or figures to indicate that the person using  
13 them is a registered nurse.

14            (2) It is unlawful for a person to practice or to offer to practice  
15 as an advanced registered nurse practitioner or as a nurse practitioner  
16 in this state unless that person has been licensed under this chapter.  
17 A person who holds a license to practice as an advanced registered  
18 nurse practitioner in this state may use the titles "advanced  
19 registered nurse practitioner," ((and)) "nurse practitioner," and

1 "nurse" and the abbreviations "A.R.N.P." and "N.P." No other person  
2 may assume those titles or use those abbreviations or any other words,  
3 letters, signs, or figures to indicate that the person using them is an  
4 advanced registered nurse practitioner or nurse practitioner.

5 (3) It is unlawful for a person to practice or to offer to practice  
6 as a licensed practical nurse in this state unless that person has been  
7 licensed under this chapter. A person who holds a license to practice  
8 as a licensed practical nurse in this state may use the titles  
9 "licensed practical nurse" and "nurse" and the abbreviation "L.P.N."  
10 No other person may assume (~~that~~) those titles or use that  
11 abbreviation or any other words, letters, signs, or figures to indicate  
12 that the person using them is a licensed practical nurse.

13 (4) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a person listed as a  
14 Christian Science nurse in the Christian Science Journal published by  
15 the Christian Science Publishing Society, Boston, Massachusetts, from  
16 using the title "Christian Science nurse," so long as such person does  
17 not hold himself or herself out as a registered nurse, advanced  
18 registered nurse practitioner, nurse practitioner, or licensed  
19 practical nurse, unless otherwise authorized by law to do so.

Passed the Senate March 14, 1997.

Passed the House April 10, 1997.

Approved by the Governor April 23, 1997.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State April 23, 1997.