

**SB 5092** - H COMM AMD

By Committee on Health Care & Wellness

ADOPTED 04/17/2013

1           Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3           "**Sec. 1.** RCW 18.79.110 and 1994 sp.s. c 9 s 411 are each amended  
4 to read as follows:

5           (1) The commission shall keep a record of all of its proceedings  
6 and make such reports to the governor as may be required. The  
7 commission shall define by rules what constitutes specialized and  
8 advanced levels of nursing practice as recognized by the medical and  
9 nursing profession. The commission may adopt rules or issue advisory  
10 opinions in response to questions put to it by professional health  
11 associations, nursing practitioners, and consumers in this state  
12 concerning the authority of various categories of nursing practitioners  
13 to perform particular acts.

14           (2) The commission shall approve curricula and shall establish  
15 criteria for minimum standards for schools preparing persons for  
16 licensing as registered nurses, advanced registered nurse  
17 practitioners, and licensed practical nurses under this chapter. The  
18 commission shall approve such schools of nursing as meet the  
19 requirements of this chapter and the commission, and the commission  
20 shall approve establishment of basic nursing education programs and  
21 shall establish criteria as to the need for and the size of a program  
22 and the type of program and the geographical location. The commission  
23 shall establish criteria for proof of reasonable currency of knowledge  
24 and skill as a basis for safe practice after three years' inactive or  
25 lapsed status. The commission shall establish criteria for licensing  
26 by endorsement. The commission shall determine examination  
27 requirements for applicants for licensing as registered nurses,  
28 advanced registered nurse practitioners, and licensed practical nurses  
29 under this chapter, and shall certify to the secretary for licensing  
30 duly qualified applicants.

1       (3) The commission shall adopt rules on continuing competency. The  
2 rules must include exemptions from the continuing competency  
3 requirements for registered nurses seeking advanced nursing degrees.  
4 Nothing in this subsection prohibits the commission from providing  
5 additional exemptions for any person credentialed under this chapter  
6 who is enrolled in an advanced education program.

7       (4) The commission shall adopt such rules under chapter 34.05 RCW  
8 as are necessary to fulfill the purposes of this chapter.

9       (5) The commission is the successor in interest of the board of  
10 nursing and the board of practical nursing. All contracts,  
11 undertakings, agreements, rules, regulations, decisions, orders, and  
12 policies of the former board of nursing or the board of practical  
13 nursing continue in full force and effect under the commission until  
14 the commission amends or rescinds those rules, regulations, decisions,  
15 orders, or policies.

16       (6) The members of the commission are immune from suit in an  
17 action, civil or criminal, based on its disciplinary proceedings or  
18 other official acts performed in good faith as members of the  
19 commission.

20       (7) Whenever the workload of the commission requires, the  
21 commission may request that the secretary appoint pro tempore members  
22 of the commission. When serving, pro tempore members of the commission  
23 have all of the powers, duties, and immunities, and are entitled to all  
24 of the emoluments, including travel expenses, of regularly appointed  
25 members of the commission."

26       Correct the title.

EFFECT: Requires the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission (NCQAC) to adopt rules on continuing competency. Removes the following requirements for a nurse to qualify for the exemption from nurse practice hours: Washington domicile and licensure, enrollment for at least six credit hours in a bachelor's of science in nursing program or a master's of science nursing program; maintenance of passing grades; and completion of the program within three years. Instead, allows the NCQAC to make exemptions from the continuing competency requirements for a registered nurse who is seeking an advanced nursing degree. Clarifies that this does not prohibit the NCQAC from granting additional exemptions to nurses enrolled in advanced education

programs .

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