
SENATE BILL 5904

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2026 Regular Session

By Senators Bateman, Holy, Chapman, Nobles, Riccelli, Saldaña, and Shewmake

Prefiled 12/16/25. Read first time 01/12/26. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to the use of nursing titles; amending RCW
2 18.79.030 and 18.79.030; providing an effective date; and providing
3 an expiration date.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.79.030 and 2023 c 123 s 19 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) It is unlawful for a person to practice or to offer to
8 practice as a registered nurse in this state unless that human person
9 has been licensed under this chapter or holds a valid multistate
10 license under chapter 18.80 RCW. A person who holds a license to
11 practice as a registered nurse in this state may use the titles
12 "registered nurse" and "nurse" and the abbreviation "R.N." No other
13 person or any nonhuman entity may assume those titles or use the
14 abbreviation or any other words, letters, signs, or figures to
15 indicate that the person or any nonhuman entity using them is a
16 registered nurse.

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

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

7 (3) It is unlawful for a person to practice or to offer to
8 practice as a licensed practical nurse in this state unless that
9 human person has been licensed under this chapter or holds a valid
10 multistate license under chapter 18.80 RCW. A person who holds a
11 license to practice as a licensed practical nurse in this state may
12 use the titles "licensed practical nurse" and "nurse" and the
13 abbreviation "L.P.N." No other person or any nonhuman entity may
14 assume those titles or use that abbreviation or any other words,
15 letters, signs, or figures to indicate that the person or any
16 nonhuman entity using them is a licensed practical nurse.

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

24 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.79.030 and 2024 c 239 s 1 are each amended to
25 read as follows:

26 (1) It is unlawful for a person to practice or to offer to
27 practice as a registered nurse in this state unless that human person
28 has been licensed under this chapter or holds a valid multistate
29 license under chapter 18.80 RCW. A person who holds a license to
30 practice as a registered nurse in this state may use the titles
31 "registered nurse" and "nurse" and the abbreviation "R.N." No other
32 person or any nonhuman entity may assume those titles or use the
33 abbreviation or any other words, letters, signs, or figures to
34 indicate that the person or any nonhuman entity using them is a
35 registered nurse.

36 (2) It is unlawful for a person to practice or to offer to
37 practice as an advanced practice registered nurse or as a nurse
38 practitioner in this state unless that human person has been licensed
39 under this chapter. A person who holds a license to practice as an

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

8 (3) It is unlawful for a person to practice or to offer to
9 practice as a licensed practical nurse in this state unless that
10 human person has been licensed under this chapter or holds a valid
11 multistate license under chapter 18.80 RCW. A person who holds a
12 license to practice as a licensed practical nurse in this state may
13 use the titles "licensed practical nurse" and "nurse" and the
14 abbreviation "L.P.N." No other person or any nonhuman entity may
15 assume those titles or use that abbreviation or any other words,
16 letters, signs, or figures to indicate that the person or any
17 nonhuman entity using them is a licensed practical nurse.

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

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Section 1 of this act expires June 30,
26 2027.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Section 2 of this act takes effect June
28 30, 2027.

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