

RCW 18.79.110 Commission—Duties and powers—Rules—Successor to boards.

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

(2) The *commission shall approve curricula and shall establish criteria for minimum standards for schools preparing persons for licensing as registered nurses, advanced registered nurse practitioners, and licensed practical nurses under this chapter. The *commission shall approve such schools of nursing as meet the requirements of this chapter and the *commission, and the *commission shall approve establishment of basic nursing education programs and shall establish criteria as to the need for and the size of a program and the type of program and the geographical location. The *commission shall establish criteria for proof of reasonable currency of knowledge and skill as a basis for safe practice after three years' inactive or lapsed status. The *commission shall establish criteria for licensing by endorsement. The *commission shall determine examination requirements for applicants for licensing as registered nurses, advanced registered nurse practitioners, and licensed practical nurses under this chapter, and shall certify to the secretary for licensing duly qualified applicants. The *commission shall adopt rules which allow for one hour of simulated learning to be counted as equivalent to two hours of clinical placement learning, with simulated learning accounting for up to a maximum of 50 percent of the required clinical hours.

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

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

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

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

(7) Whenever the workload of the *commission requires, the *commission may request that the secretary appoint pro tempore members of the *commission. When serving, pro tempore members of the *commission have all of the powers, duties, and immunities, and are entitled to all of the emoluments, including travel expenses, of

regularly appointed members of the *commission. [2023 c 126 § 8; 2013 c 229 § 1; 1994 sp.s. c 9 § 411.]

***Reviser's note:** The reference to "nursing care quality assurance commission" was changed to "board of nursing" by 2023 c 123.

Findings—2023 c 126: See note following RCW 28B.50.800.