
By: **Delegates Hubbard, Nathan-Pulliam, and Goldwater**
Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2000
Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Board of Nursing - Nursing Assistants in the Rehabilitation Program**

3 FOR the purpose of adding nursing assistants to the health professionals who may
4 participate in the rehabilitation program of the State Board of Nursing;
5 authorizing the Rehabilitation Committee to review and designate treatment
6 facilities and services for nursing assistants; authorizing the Rehabilitation
7 Committee to determine if a nursing assistant may safely continue to practice;
8 requiring the Rehabilitation Committee to prepare certain reports and
9 rehabilitation programs for participants; requiring the Rehabilitation
10 Committee to make certain reports to the Board; requiring the Board to keep all
11 nursing assistant rehabilitation records confidential; authorizing the Board to
12 take certain disciplinary actions; requiring the Board to provide legal counsel in
13 case a member of the Committee or Board is sued for defamation by a nursing
14 assistant; providing for certain penalties; and generally relating to nursing
15 assistants who are in the rehabilitation program of the State Board of Nursing.

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
17 Article - Health Occupations
18 Section 8-208(j) through (p) and 8-6A-10(a)(29) and (30)
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (1994 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

21 BY adding to
22 Article - Health Occupations
23 Section 8-6A-10(a)(31)
24 Annotated Code of Maryland
25 (1994 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

26 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
27 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

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Article - Health Occupations

2 8-208.

3 (j) In addition to the powers set forth elsewhere in this subtitle, the
4 Committee may:

5 (1) Evaluate those nurses OR NURSING ASSISTANTS who request
6 participation in the program according to the guidelines prescribed by the Board and
7 consider the recommendations for admission into the program;

8 (2) Review and designate those treatment facilities and services to which
9 nurses OR NURSING ASSISTANTS in the program may be referred;

10 (3) Receive and review information concerning a nurse OR NURSING
11 ASSISTANT participating in the program;

12 (4) Consider in the case of each nurse OR NURSING ASSISTANT
13 participating in a program whether the nurse OR NURSING ASSISTANT may with
14 safety continue or resume the practice of nursing; and

15 (5) Have meetings as necessary to consider the requests of nurses OR
16 NURSING ASSISTANTS to participate in the program, and consider reports regarding
17 nurses OR NURSING ASSISTANTS participating in the program.

18 (k) In addition to the duties set forth elsewhere in this subtitle, the Committee
19 shall:

20 (1) Prepare reports to be submitted to the Board; and

21 (2) Set forth in writing for each nurse OR NURSING ASSISTANT
22 participating in the program a rehabilitation program established for that nurse OR
23 NURSING ASSISTANT, including the requirements for supervision and surveillance.

24 (l) The Committee shall inform each nurse OR NURSING ASSISTANT who
25 requests participation in the program of:

26 (1) The procedures followed in the program;

27 (2) The rights and responsibilities of the nurse OR NURSING ASSISTANT
28 in the program; and

29 (3) The possible results of noncompliance with the program.

30 (m) (1) Each nurse OR NURSING ASSISTANT who requests to participate in
31 the program shall agree to cooperate with the individual rehabilitation program
32 designed by a Committee.

33 (2) Any failure to comply with the provisions of a rehabilitation program
34 may result in termination of the nurse's OR NURSING ASSISTANT'S participation in
35 the program.

1 (3) The Committee shall report the name and license number of a nurse
2 OR THE NAME AND CERTIFICATE NUMBER OF A NURSING ASSISTANT who is expelled
3 from the program for failure to comply with the conditions of the program.

4 (4) (i) The program shall transfer to the Board all the records of any
5 nurse OR NURSING ASSISTANT expelled from the program.

6 (ii) The Board may initiate disciplinary action based on the failure
7 of the nurse OR NURSING ASSISTANT to comply with the conditions of the program in
8 accordance with the provisions of §§ 8-316 and 8-317 of this title.

9 (n) After a Committee has determined that a nurse OR NURSING ASSISTANT
10 has been rehabilitated, the Committee shall purge and destroy all records concerning
11 a nurse's OR NURSING ASSISTANT'S participation in the program.

12 (o) All Board and Committee records of a proceeding concerning the
13 rehabilitation of a nurse OR NURSING ASSISTANT in the program are confidential and
14 are not subject to discovery or subpoena in any civil or criminal action.

15 (p) The Board shall provide for the representation of any person making
16 reports to a Committee or the Board under this section in any action for defamation
17 directly resulting from reports or information given to a Committee or the Board
18 regarding a nurse's OR NURSING ASSISTANT'S participation in the program.

19 8-6A-10.

20 (a) Subject to the hearing provisions of § 8-317 of this title, the Board may
21 deny a certificate to any applicant, reprimand any certificate holder, place any
22 certificate holder on probation, or suspend or revoke the certificate of a certificate
23 holder, if the applicant or certificate holder:

24 (29) Has acted in a manner inconsistent with the health or safety of a
25 person under the certified nursing assistant's care; [or]

26 (30) Performs activities that exceed the education and training of the
27 certified nursing assistant; OR

28 (31) IS EXPELLED FROM THE REHABILITATION PROGRAM ESTABLISHED
29 PURSUANT TO § 8-208 OF THIS TITLE FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE
30 CONDITIONS OF THE PROGRAM.

31 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
32 October 1, 2000.