

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 698
(Senator Conway)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

State Board of Nursing - Advanced Practice Registered Nurses - Certification and Practice

This bill authorizes a nurse anesthetist to administer anesthesia in collaboration with an anesthesiologist, a physician, or a dentist, but without the need for a specified collaboration agreement. The scope of practice of a nurse anesthetist is codified and expanded to reflect current practice. The bill also codifies that the certification of an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) expires on the same date as the APRN's license to practice registered nursing.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill generally codifies current practice.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: "Nurse anesthetist" means an individual who is licensed by the State Board of Nursing (BON) to practice registered nursing, and is certified by BON to practice as a nurse anesthetist. "Practice as a nurse anesthetist" means to perform acts related to the administration of anesthesia. "Perioperative care" means the assessment and management of a patient requiring anesthesia before and after a surgical procedure, and the monitoring of a patient during the administration of anesthesia. "Perioperative care" includes ordering drugs and medications to be administered to a patient by a licensed,

certified, or registered health care practitioner before a surgical procedure takes place and until the patient is discharged from postanesthesia care.

A nurse anesthetist may (1) provide perioperative care; (2) administer anesthetics; (3) manage fluid in intravenous therapy; (4) provide respiratory care; (5) order and evaluate laboratory and diagnostic tests; (6) perform point-of-care testing that the nurse anesthetist is qualified to perform; (7) order and evaluate radiographic imaging studies that the nurse anesthetist is qualified to order and interpret; and (8) perform any other act that the nurse anesthetist is authorized to perform under the Health Occupations Article or the Health-General Article.

A nurse anesthetist must administer anesthesia *in collaboration with* an anesthesiologist, a physician, or a dentist. However, the requirement to administer anesthesia in collaboration with an anesthesiologist, a physician, or a dentist may not be construed to require a *collaboration agreement* between a nurse anesthetist and an anesthesiologist, a physician, a podiatrist, or a dentist.

BON may not renew the certification of an APRN if BON does not have documentation of the licensee's current certification as an APRN by a national certifying body recognized by BON.

Current Law/Background: An APRN is an individual who is licensed by BON to practice registered nursing or has a multistate licensure privilege, and is certified by BON to practice as (1) a nurse practitioner; (2) a nurse anesthetist; (3) a nurse midwife; or (4) a clinical nurse specialist. Under Maryland regulations, APRN certificates expires at the same time as an APRN's registered nursing license. According to BON, all APRNs currently renew on a biennial schedule and routinely file their renewed national certifications with BON.

The scope of practice of a nurse anesthetist is not specified under Maryland law. However, Maryland regulations provide that a nurse anesthetist may perform (1) perioperative assessment and management of patients requiring anesthesia services; (2) administration of anesthetic agents; (3) management of fluid in intravenous therapy; and (4) respiratory care. A nurse anesthetist may not practice until the nurse anesthetist submits a collaboration agreement to BON that includes specified information about the collaborating physician or dentist for each worksite or facility. A separate agreement for each collaborator or facility must be submitted.

BON advises that the bill generally codifies the current scope of practice for nurse anesthetists. Repeal of the requirement to have a collaborative agreement is intended to remove barriers to practice. BON notes that 30 states no longer require a collaborative agreement for a nurse anesthetist to practice.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 863 (Delegate Cullison, *et al.*) - Health and Government Operations.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

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