

HOUSE BILL 986

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6lr2412

By: **Delegate Terrasa**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Health

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Nurse Licensure – Educational Requirements – Enforcement**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring certain applicants for a license to practice registered nursing
4 or licensed practical nursing to produce certain evidence that the applicants'
5 educational credentials meet certain requirements; authorizing the State Board of
6 Nursing to take certain disciplinary action for the failure to complete certain
7 education requirements; and generally relating to enforcement of educational
8 requirements by the State Board of Nursing.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
10 Article – Health Occupations
11 Section 8–307(a)
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
15 Article – Health Occupations
16 Section 8–307(b), 8–316(a)(35) and (36), and 8–7A–03
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

19 BY adding to
20 Article – Health Occupations
21 Section 8–316(a)(37)
22 Annotated Code of Maryland
23 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

26 **Article – Health Occupations**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 8-307.

2 (a) Subject to the provisions of this section, the Board may issue a license by
3 endorsement and waive any appropriate examination requirement of this title for an
4 applicant who has an active unencumbered license to practice registered nursing or
5 licensed practical nursing in any other state or country.

6 (b) The Board may issue a license by endorsement under this section only if the
7 applicant:

8 (1) Submits to the Board an application on the form that the Board
9 requires;

10 (2) Submits to a criminal history records check in accordance with § 8-303
11 of this subtitle;

12 (3) Pays the application fee set by the Board under § 8-304 of this subtitle;
13 and

14 (4) (i) 1. **A.** Holds a valid, unencumbered multistate license
15 under the Nurse Licensure Compact; **AND**

16 **B. IF REQUIRED BY THE BOARD, PROVIDES ADEQUATE**
17 **EVIDENCE, INCLUDING OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS, THAT THE APPLICANT'S**
18 **EDUCATIONAL CREDENTIALS MEET THE REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED UNDER §**
19 **8-302 OF THIS SUBTITLE; or**

20 2. Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section,
21 provides adequate evidence that:

22 A. At the time the applicant graduated from a nursing
23 education program approved in the other state or country, the program was substantially
24 equivalent to the education program approved in this State; and

25 B. At the time the applicant became licensed or registered in
26 the other state or country, the applicant passed in that or any other state or country an
27 examination that was similar to the examination that then was given in this State; and

28 (ii) Meets the qualifications otherwise required by this title.

29 8-316.

30 (a) Subject to the hearing provisions of § 8-317 of this subtitle, the Board may
31 deny a license or grant a license, including a license subject to a reprimand, probation, or

1 suspension, to any applicant, reprimand any licensee, place any licensee on probation, or
2 suspend or revoke the license of a licensee if the applicant or licensee:

3 (35) Has misappropriated the property of a patient or a facility; [or]

4 (36) Fails to comply with § 1–223 of this article; OR

5 (37) FAILS TO COMPLETE THE EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS
6 ESTABLISHED UNDER § 8–302 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

7 8–7A–03.

8 (a) This Nurse Licensure Compact may not nullify any other provision in this title
9 or any other title applicable to the practice of nursing in the State.

10 (b) THIS NURSE LICENSURE COMPACT MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO LIMIT
11 THE AUTHORITY OF THE BOARD TO:

12 (1) INVESTIGATE THE QUALIFICATIONS OF AN APPLICANT FOR
13 LICENSURE OR A LICENSEE, INCLUDING THE SUFFICIENCY OF THE APPLICANT’S
14 NURSING EDUCATION; OR

15 (2) TAKE APPROPRIATE DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST AN
16 INTERSTATE LICENSEE, INCLUDING DENIAL OR REVOCATION OF LICENSURE.

17 (C) In any instance where this Nurse Licensure Compact is silent as to an issue,
18 the other provisions of this title and any regulations promulgated under this title shall
19 prevail.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
21 October 1, 2026.