

# VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 1998 SESSION

## CHAPTER 458

*An Act to amend and reenact §§ 54.1-3000 and 54.1-3005 of the Code of Virginia, relating to professional nursing.*

[H 1055]

Approved April 14, 1998

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That §§ 54.1-3000 and 54.1-3005 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 54.1-3000. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, unless the context requires a different meaning:

"Board" means the Board of Nursing.

"Certified nurse aide" means a person who meets the qualifications specified in this article and who is currently certified by the Board.

"Clinical nurse specialist" means a person who is registered by the Board in addition to holding a license under the provisions of this chapter to practice professional nursing as defined in this section. Such a person shall be recognized as being able to provide advanced services according to the specialized training received from a program approved by the Board, but shall not be entitled to perform any act that is not within the scope of practice of professional nursing.

"Certified massage therapist" means a person who meets the qualifications specified in this chapter and who is currently certified by the Board.

"Massage therapy" means the treatment of soft tissues for therapeutic purposes by the application of massage and bodywork techniques based on the manipulation or application of pressure to the muscular structure or soft tissues of the human body. The terms "massage therapy" and "therapeutic massage" do not include the diagnosis or treatment of illness or disease or any service or procedure for which a license to practice medicine, nursing, chiropractic therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, acupuncture, or podiatry is required by law.

"Practical nurse" or "licensed practical nurse" means a person who is licensed under the provisions of this chapter to practice practical nursing as defined in this section. Such a licensee shall be empowered to provide nursing services without compensation. The abbreviation "L.P.N." shall stand for such terms.

"Practical nursing" or "licensed practical nursing" means the performance for compensation of selected nursing acts in the care of individuals or groups who are ill, injured, or experiencing changes in normal health processes; in the maintenance of health; in the prevention of illness or disease; or, subject to such regulations as the Board may promulgate, in the teaching of those who are or will be nurse aides. Practical nursing or licensed practical nursing requires knowledge, judgment and skill in nursing procedures gained through prescribed education. Practical nursing or licensed practical nursing is performed under the direction or supervision of a licensed medical practitioner, a professional nurse, registered nurse or registered professional nurse or other licensed health professional authorized by regulations of the Board.

"Practice of a nurse aide" or "nurse aide practice" means the performance of services requiring the education, training, and skills specified in this chapter for certification as a nurse aide. Such services are performed under the supervision of a dentist, physician, podiatrist, professional nurse, licensed practical nurse, or other licensed health care professional acting within the scope of the requirements of his profession.

"Professional nurse," "registered nurse" or "registered professional nurse" means a person who is licensed under the provisions of this chapter to practice professional nursing as defined in this section. Such a licensee shall be empowered to provide professional services without compensation, to promote health and to teach health to individuals and groups. The abbreviation "R.N." shall stand for such terms.

"Professional nursing," "registered nursing" or "registered professional nursing" means the performance for compensation of any nursing acts in the observation, care and counsel of individuals or groups who are ill, injured or experiencing changes in normal health processes or the maintenance of health; in the prevention of illness or disease; in the supervision and teaching of those who are or will be involved in nursing care; *in the delegation of selected nursing tasks and procedures to appropriately trained unlicensed persons as determined by the Board*; or the administration of medications and treatments as prescribed by any person authorized by law to prescribe such medications and treatment. Professional nursing, registered nursing and registered professional nursing require specialized education, judgment, and skill based upon knowledge and application of principles from the biological, physical, social, behavioral and nursing sciences.

§ 54.1-3005. Specific powers and duties of Board.

In addition to the general powers and duties conferred in this title, the Board shall have the

following specific powers and duties:

1. To prescribe minimum standards and approve curricula for educational programs preparing persons for licensure or certification under this chapter;

2. To approve programs that meet the requirements of this chapter and of the Board;

3. To provide consultation service for educational programs as requested;

4. To provide for periodic surveys of educational programs;

5. To deny or withdraw approval from educational programs for failure to meet prescribed standards;

6. To provide consultation regarding nursing practice for institutions and agencies as requested and investigate illegal nursing practices;

7. To keep a record of all its proceedings;

8. To certify and maintain a registry of all certified nurse aides and to promulgate regulations consistent with federal law and regulation. Such regulations may include standards for the authority of licensed practical nurses to teach nurse aides;

9. To approve programs that entitle professional nurses to be registered as clinical nurse specialists and to prescribe minimum standards for such programs;

10. To maintain a registry of clinical nurse specialists and to promulgate regulations governing clinical nurse specialists;

11. (Effective until July 1, 1999) To promulgate regulations for the voluntary certification of licensees as sex offender treatment providers. In promulgating such regulations, the Board shall consider the standards recommended by the Advisory Committee on Certified Practices pursuant to § 54.1-3610. The provisions of this subdivision shall expire on July 1, 1999; ~~and~~

12. To certify and maintain a registry of all certified massage therapists and to promulgate regulations governing the criteria for certification as a massage therapist and the standards of professional conduct for certified massage therapists; *and*

13. *To promulgate regulations for the delegation of certain nursing tasks and procedures not involving assessment, evaluation or nursing judgment to an appropriately trained unlicensed person by and under the supervision of a registered nurse, who retains responsibility and accountability for such delegation.*

**2. That the Board of Nursing shall adopt regulations to be effective within 280 days of the enactment of these provisions.**