SB25 ENROLLED



- 1 SB25
- 2 X1897EE-2
- 3 By Senator Weaver
- 4 RFD: Healthcare
- 5 First Read: 06-Feb-24
- 6 PFD: 01-Feb-24



1 Enrolled, An Act,

- Relating to the Board of Nursing, to amend Sections

 34-21-2 and 34-21-25, Code of Alabama 1975, to authorize the

 board, by rule, to provide standards for the scope of practice

 for certified nursing support technicians and to issue permits

 to eligible applicants; to provide further for the nature and

 type of disciplinary actions the board may impose; and to make

 nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update existing code
- 12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

language to current style.

Section 1. Sections 34-21-2 and 34-21-25 of the Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:

15 "\$34-21-2

(a) There is created the Board of Nursing, which shall be composed of 13 members to be appointed and have the duties and powers enumerated in this section. The Governor shall coordinate his or her appointments to assure that the membership of the board shall be is inclusive and reflect reflects the racial, gender, geographic, urban/rural urban, rural, and economic diversity of the state. In order to insure continuity of administration, the nine board members provided for by Section 3 of Act 427, Regular Session 1975, shall continue to serve to the completion of the term for which they are serving. The Governor, within 60 days of January 1, 1984, shall appoint a tenth member who shall be a licensed practical nurse for a term of four years from a list of nominees



29 furnished him or her by the Alabama Federation of Licensed 30 Practical Nurses, Incorporated, or its successor organization. 31 As the terms of all board members expire, their successors 32 shall be appointed for terms of four years each. Vacancies in 33 unexpired terms shall be filled in the same manner as original 34 appointments are made. No member shall be appointed to more 35 than two consecutive terms of four years each. Eight Six 36 members of the board shall be licensed professional nurses, 37 and two members of the board shall be licensed professional nurses who are approved to engage in advanced practice nursing 38 39 in the state, four members of the board shall be licensed practical nurses, and one member of the board shall be a 40 41 consumer. 42 (b) (1) The Governor shall appoint the eight members of 43 the board who are licensed professional nurses, including two 44 who are approved to engage in advanced practice nursing in the 45 state, from a list of nominees who are selected by the Board 46 of Nursing Nomination Committee and furnished to the Governor by the Alabama State Nurses Association, or its successor 47 48 organization, and the list, when furnished, shall contain at 49 least twice the number of nominees as there are appointments 50 to be made or vacancies to be filled. The Alabama State Nurses 51 Association, or its successor organization, on or before 52 December 1 of each year, or at such other times time as 53 necessary, shall furnish the Governor with a list of licensed

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professional nurses qualified for appointment to the board. In

the nominating and appointing process, due care shall be taken

to ensure the maintenance of qualified representation from the

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- fields of nursing education, nursing administration, clinical nursing, and advanced practice nursing.
- 59 (2) The Governor shall appoint two of the four members 60 of the board who are to be licensed practical nurses from a list of nominees furnished him or her by the Board of 61 62 Directors of the Licensed Practical Nurses Association of 63 Alabama, or its successor organization, and the list, when 64 furnished, shall contain at least twice the number of nominees for the vacancies to be filled. The Board of Directors of the 65 Licensed Practical Nurses Association of Alabama, or its 66 67 successor organization, on or before December 1 of each year in which the term of office of a board member or a nominee of 68 the Board of Directors of the Licensed Practical Nurses 69 70 Association of Alabama shall expire, or at such other time as 71 necessary, shall furnish the Governor with the list of licensed practical nurses qualified for appointment to the 72

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board.

(3) The Governor shall appoint two of the four members en of the board who are to be licensed practical nurses from a list of nominees furnished him or her by the Board of Directors of the Alabama Federation of Licensed Practical Nurses, Incorporated, or its successor organization, and the list, when furnished, shall contain at least twice the number of nominees for the vacancies to be filled. The Board of Directors of the Alabama Federation of Licensed Practical Nurses, Incorporated, or its successor organization, on or before December 1 of each year in which the term of office of the a board member filled by the nominee of the board of



- directors Board of Directors of the Alabama Federation of
 Licensed Practical Nurses, Incorporated, or its successor
 organization, shall expire, or at such other times time as
 necessary, shall furnish the Governor with a list of licensed
- 89 practical nurses qualified for appointment to the board.

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- 90 (c) The Governor may remove any member from the board 91 for neglect of duty of the board, incompetency, or 92 unprofessional or dishonorable conduct.
 - (d) Each person appointed to the board as a licensed professional nurse shall be a citizen of the United States, a resident of the State of Alabama this state, and have all of these the following additional qualifications:
- 97 (1) Be a graduate of a state-approved educational 98 program for the preparation of practitioners of professional 99 nursing.
- 100 (2) Be a currently licensed professional nurse in
 101 Alabama this state.
- 102 (3) Have a minimum of five years' successful nursing
 103 experience in an administrative, teaching, clinical capacity,
 104 or advanced practice.
- 105 (4) Be actively engaged in professional nursing in this 106 state immediately preceding and during appointment.
- 107 (e) Each person appointed to the board as a licensed
 108 practical nurse shall be a citizen of the United States, a
 109 resident of the State of Alabama, and have all of these the
 110 following additional qualifications:
- 111 (1) Hold a diploma from an accredited high school or 112 its equivalent.



- 113 (2) Be a graduate of a state-approved vocational
 114 educational program for the preparation of practitioners of
 115 licensed practical nursing.
- 116 (3) Be a currently licensed practical nurse in—Alabama
 117 this state.
- 118 (4) Have a minimum of five years' successful nursing
 119 experience.
- 120 (5) Be actively engaged in licensed practical nursing 121 in this state immediately preceding and during appointment.

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- who is a consumer and who is may not be a member of any of the health care professions. The consumer member shall be appointed by the Governor effective January 1, 1998, and shall serve for a term of four years. His or her successor shall be appointed in a like manner at the expiration of each term or upon a vacancy for the remainder of an unexpired term of office. The consumer member of the board shall have, presently or formerly, shall have no direct financial interest in any health care facility, profession, agency, or insurer, or be, or have been, a health care worker.
- 133 (g) There shall be two advanced practice nurse positions to be filled effective January 1, 1998, in the same 134 135 manner as all other professional nurse positions. One advanced 136 practice nurse position shall be served for an initial 137 five-year term and successors shall serve four-year terms. The remaining member appointed to an advance practice nurse 138 position shall serve an initial four-year term and successors 139 140 shall serve four-year terms.



141	(h)(g) All members of the board shall enjoy immunity
142	from individual civil liability while acting within the scope
143	of their duties as board members.

- (i) The board shall have the following powers and perform the following duties: It(h) The board shall meet at least once a year and shall, at its organizational meeting and at its annual meetings thereafter, shall elect from its members a president, a vice president, and a secretary. It The board may hold such other and additional meetings during any year as it the board deems necessary for the transaction of business. A majority of the board, including one officer, shall constitute a quorum at any meeting.
- $\frac{(j)}{(i)}$ The board may do any of the following:

- 154 (1) Adopt and, from time to time, revise—such rules,
 155 not inconsistent with the law, as may be necessary to carry
 156 out this chapter.
- 157 (2) Prescribe standards and approve curricula for

 158 nursing educational programs preparing persons individuals for

 159 licensure licensing under this chapter.
 - (3) Provide for surveys and evaluations of such programs at such times as it the board may deem necessary.
- (4) Approve—such nursing educational programs—as meet
 that satisfy the requirements of this chapter and the board.

 Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to diminish the
 power of the State Board of Education or any other
 constitutionally or legislatively established state—agencies
 agency to govern the schools under their respective
 jurisdictions.



169 (5) Deny or withdraw approval from educational programs

170 for failure to—meet_satisfy prescribed standards. Withdrawal

171 of approval shall be effected only after a hearing in

172 accordance with board rules.

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- (6) Examine, license, and renew the licenses of—duly qualified applicants and require employers to submit listings of personnel covered by this chapter to the board upon request including, but not limited to, personnel practicing nursing in Alabama under a multistate license, a single state license, or a multistate—licensure_licensing privilege. The board may issue qualified applicants either a single state license or a multistate license.
- (7) Adopt and, from time to time, revise rules providing standards including, but not limited to, scope of practice for student nurse apprenticeships and the issuance of student nurse apprentice permits by the board to eligible students.
- 186 (8) Adopt and, from time to time, revise rules 187 providing standards including, but not limited to, scope of 188 practice for certified medication assistants and the issuance 189 of certified medication assistant permits by the board to 190 eligible applicants. For purposes of this chapter, a certified 191 medication assistant is an unlicensed assistive personnel an 192 individual who has successfully completed a board-approved 193 curriculum for assistance with medications, or a comparable program in another state, and who holds a valid certification 194 as a medication assistant and who has been issued a permit 195 196 pursuant to this chapter. Practice by a certified medication



197	assistant is limited to employment in health care or
198	educational facilities that are licensed, certified, or
199	operated by this state.

- (9) Adopt and revise rules providing standards including, but not limited to, scope of practice for certified nursing support technicians and the issuance of permits by the board to eligible applicants. For purposes of this chapter, a certified nursing support technician is an individual who has successfully completed a board-approved curriculum for performing supportive nursing services, or a comparable program in another state, and who has passed a board-approved examination and has been issued a permit pursuant to this chapter. Supportive nursing services do not require the exercise of nursing judgment. A nursing support technician performs supportive nursing services under the supervision of a licensed nurse.
- 213 (9)(10) Conduct investigations, hearings, and
 214 proceedings concerning alleged violations of this section
 215 chapter or of the rules of the board.
- 216 (10) Have the power to issue (11) Issue subpoenas,
 217 compel the attendance of witnesses, and administer oaths to
 218 persons individuals giving testimony at hearings.
- 219 (11) (12) Cause the prosecution of all persons any
 220 individual violating this chapter and incur—such necessary
 221 expenses therefor.
- $\frac{(12)}{(13)}$ Keep a public record of all of its proceedings.
- (13) (14) Keep a register of all licensees.



225	$\frac{(14)}{(15)}$ Make an annual report to the Governor.
226	(15) (16) Appoint and employ a qualified person
227	individual, not subject to the state Merit System, who shall
228	not be nor a member of the board, to serve as the executive
229	officer and administrator and commissioner of the Enhanced
230	Nurse Licensure Compact for Alabama.
231	$\frac{(16)}{(17)}$ Define the duties and fix the compensation of
232	the executive officer and administrator and commissioner of
233	the Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact for Alabama, with the
234	approval of the Governor and the State Personnel Board as
235	provided in Section 36-6-6.
236	(17) (18) Employ such other persons other individuals as
237	may be necessary to carry on the work of the board and provide
238	for appropriate bonding of employees. Regular employees of the
239	board shall be employed subject to the state Merit System in
240	effect on January 1, 1966, or at the time of employment.
241	$\frac{(18)}{(19)}$ Employ consultants, specialists, counsel, or
242	other specially qualified <u>persons</u> individuals under contract
243	or on a part-time basis to assist—it the board in
244	administering this chapter and without regard to the state
245	Merit System in effect on or after January 1, 1966, and pay
246	for the services of such persons those individuals.
247	$\frac{(19)}{(20)}$ Accept gifts and grants upon terms and
248	conditions imposed by it through official resolutions.
249	(20) (21) Perform—such other duties, not inconsistent
250	with law, as required by this chapter to foster and improve
251	nursing-and, the regulation-thereof of the practice of
252	nursing, and the public health of this state.



253	(21)(22) Expend funds of the board in exercising its
254	board powers and duties and in administering this chapter.
255	$\frac{(22)}{(23)}$ Determine and collect reasonable fees.
256	(23) (24) Adopt standards for registered and practical
257	nursing practice and for continued competency of licensees.
258	(24) (25) Join organizations that develop and regulate
259	the national nursing licensure licensing examinations and
260	promote the improvement of the legal standards of the practice
261	of nursing for the protection of the public health, safety,
262	and welfare.
263	$\frac{(k)}{(j)}$ The executive officer employed by the board
264	shall be a citizen of the United States, a person an
265	individual of the highest integrity, and possess these all of
266	the following additional qualifications:
267	(1) Be a licensed professional nurse in Alabama or
268	eligible for licensure, be licensing.
269	(2) Be a graduate of a professional nursing program
270	approved by the state in which the program was completed $ au$
271	hold.
272	(3) Hold a master's degree, and have.
273	(4) Have had a varied experience in nursing, including
274	at least five years' experience in an administrative or
275	teaching capacity.
276	$\frac{(1)}{(k)}$ The executive officer shall be bonded for the
277	faithful performance of the duties of the office in the sum of
278	not less than five thousand dollars (\$5,000), and the premium

 $\frac{\text{(m)}}{\text{(l)}}$ Each member of the board shall receive the same

of the bond shall be paid out of the funds of the board.



per diem and travel allowance as is paid by law to state employees for each day's attendance at the board meetings incurred in the discharge of his or her duties as a board member in addition to any daily compensation or allowance, if any, as may be provided by the board, in—such_any amount as may be determined by the board. Any member of the board engaged in duties under the direction of the board shall receive the per diem and travel expenses and daily compensation or allowance authorized by the board.

(n) (m) Nothing in this chapter shall limit the rights of affected parties to appeal decisions of the board with regard to rules adopted pursuant to this chapter.

(e) (n) Participation by the state in the compact provided in Article 7 shall be subject to review and evaluation by the Sunset Committee pursuant to Chapter 20 of Title 41, with the first review occurring in 2024. The Sunset Committee shall determine whether continued participation in the compact is in the best interests of the board or the licensees of the board. The Sunset Committee shall also review and evaluate participation in the compact within one year after the occurrence of any of the following:

- (1) The annual assessment charged the board for participation in the compact exceeds one-half of one percent of the gross revenue of the board for the fiscal year immediately preceding the levying of the annual assessment.
- (2) The state, the board, or members or employees of the state or board are named defendants in a suit brought in any court of law or equity by the Interstate Commission of



- 309 Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators pursuant to Article 7.
- 310 (3) The passage of a resolution by either house of the
- 311 Legislature requesting review pursuant to subsection (d) of
- 312 Section 41-20-3(d)."
- 313 "\$34-21-25
- 314 (a) For disciplinary purposes, the board may adopt,
- 315 levy, and collect administrative fines not to exceed one
- thousand dollars (\$1,000) per violation and may institute any
- 317 legal proceedings necessary to effect compliance with this
- 318 chapter against its licensees the holder of any license,
- 319 permit, certificate, or approval issued by the board or the
- 320 <u>holder of a multistate privilege to practice nursing in this</u>
- 321 state.
- 322 (b)(1) The board may also deny, revoke, or place on
- 323 probation with conditions for continued practice, suspend,
- 324 require the evaluation of, impose continuing education
- 325 requirements upon, or otherwise discipline any applicant for
- 326 or holder of any license, permit, certificate, or approval
- 327 issued by it or otherwise discipline a licensee, the board or
- 328 holder of a multistate privilege to practice in—Alabama this
- 329 state, upon proof of any of the following regarding the
- 330 licensee applicant for or holder of any license, permit,
- 331 certificate, approval, or multistate privilege to practice in
- 332 this state:
- a. Is guilty of fraud or deceit in procuring or
- 334 attempting to procure a license.
- b. Has been convicted of a felony.
- 336 c. Is guilty of a crime involving moral turpitude or of



- gross immorality that would tend to bring reproach upon the nursing profession.
- 339 d. Is unfit or incompetent due to the use of alcohol, 340 or is addicted to the use of habit-forming drugs to—such an
- 341 extent as to render him or her unsafe or unreliable as a
- 342 licensee.
- e. Is unable to practice nursing with reasonable skill
- 344 and safety to patients by reason of illness, inebriation,
- excessive use of drugs, narcotics, alcohol, chemicals, or any
- 346 other substance, or as a result of any mental or physical
- 347 condition.
- f. Has been convicted of any violation of a federal or
- 349 state law relating to controlled substances.
- g. Is guilty of unprofessional conduct of a character
- 351 likely to deceive, defraud, or injure the public in matters
- 352 pertaining to health.
- h. Has willfully or repeatedly violated this article,
- 354 as defined by board rules.
- 355 i. Has been sentenced to a period of continuous
- 356 incarceration serving a penal sentence for the commission of a
- 357 misdemeanor or felony. The disciplinary action shall remain in
- 358 effect until the board acts upon the application of the
- 359 licensee for reinstatement of the license.
- 360 (2) The board may refrain from or delay taking
- 361 disciplinary action under this subsection if a licensee-can
- 362 may be voluntarily treated or rehabilitated pursuant to
- 363 subsection (j).
- 364 (c) Whenever a written complaint is made to the board



365 that a person an individual has committed any of the acts or 366 has come within any of the provisions enumerated in subsection 367 (b), the board shall investigate the complaint and may bring 368 an action in its own name to hear and determine the complaint. 369 The hearing shall be held in Montgomery County. The person 370 individual whose qualification is under consideration shall 371 have not less than 20 days' written notice of the time and 372 place of the initial hearing, and the notice shall be 373 accompanied by a copy of the complaint. The notice may be served upon the accused-person individual by any sheriff of 374 375 the State of Alabama this state. If the accused person individual is out of the state, evades service, or cannot be 376 377 served in person, then service may be made by mailing, by 378 registered or certified mail, the notice and a copy of the 379 complaint to the accused person individual at his or her last 380 known-post-office mailing address in this state, and the 381 return shall show that service has been made in this manner. 382

individual whose qualification is under consideration, and any other person individual permitted by the board, may introduce all oral or written testimony, or both, as the board deems relevant to the issues involved, and may be heard in person or by counsel, or both. The board may permit the complaint to be amended, but no amendment shall be permitted which is not germane to the charge or charges sought to be amended or which materially alters the nature of any offense charged. The board may determine all questions as to the sufficiency of the complaint, procedure, and admissibility and weight of

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evidence. If the <u>person individual</u> whose qualification is under consideration is absent, the hearing may proceed in his or her absence.

- (e) Any accused—person_individual, complainant, or other party and the board may subpoena witnesses or pertinent records for the hearing, and those subpoenas may be served by any sheriff of the State of Alabama this state. Witnesses may be sworn by the president of the board or by the—person individual discharging the duties of the president. Witnesses testifying at a hearing shall upon discharge as a witness be paid by the party requesting the subpoena an amount not to exceed the per diem expense allowed to—Alabama state employees for in-state travel and the actual cost of transportation to and from the place of the hearing, not to exceed the mileage rate allowed to—Alabama state employees for in-state travel.
- (f) Evidence may also be taken by deposition, and the law and practice as to depositions in circuit courts shall be followed in all reasonable respects.
- (g) If the accused <u>person</u> <u>individual</u> is found guilty of the charges, the board may refuse to issue a license, may revoke or suspend a license, or may otherwise discipline a licensee. A revoked license may be considered for reinstatement after one year in accordance with board rules.
- (h) Any—person_individual whose license is ordered suspended or revoked may appeal to the circuit court or a court of like jurisdiction of Montgomery County, from any order of the board under this section, within 30 days from the date of the decision of the board. The trial of appeals shall



be conducted in like manner, as nearly as may be, as provided for in the Alabama Administrative Procedure Act.

- (i) Any organization, registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, or other person individual who in good faith reports information to the board alleging that any person individual licensed or applying for a license to practice nursing may be guilty of the acts, offenses, or conditions set out in Section 34-21-7 or subsection (b), shall not be liable to any person individual for any statement or opinion made in that report.
- establish a voluntary Disciplinary Alternative Program to promote early identification, intervention, treatment, and rehabilitation of any licensed nurse whose competence is found to be impaired or compromised because of the use or abuse of drugs, alcohol, controlled substances, chemicals, or other substances or as a result of a physical or mental condition rendering the person licensee unable to meet the standards of the nursing profession. The intent of the program is to provide a voluntary alternative to traditional disciplinary actions.
- 442 (1) When a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse
 443 voluntarily seeks treatment for use or abuse of drugs,
 444 controlled substances, alcohol, chemicals, or other
 445 substances, or has a physical or mental condition that would
 446 render the individual unable to meet the standards of the
 447 nursing profession, the board may refrain from taking
 448 disciplinary action under subsection (b) if—it the board



determines that the licensee—can_may be treated or
rehabilitated effectively and that there is no danger to the
public. Upon voluntarily seeking treatment, the licensee is
subject to the requirements of the Disciplinary Alternative
Program established by the board.

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- (2) The board may establish, develop, adopt, and revise rules, and may adjust the license renewal fee as necessary to implement this subsection.
- (3) The board may appoint an Advisory Council for the Disciplinary Alternative Program pursuant to Section 34-21-3.
- (4) The board may contract with specially qualified persons individuals or corporations, or both, to assist—it the board in administering the Disciplinary Alternative Program.
- (5) The board shall establish by rule criteria for eligibility to participate in the Disciplinary Alternative Program and requirements for successful participation in and completion of the program.
- 466 (6) Subject to Section 34-21-125, all records of a 467 licensee who successfully completes the Disciplinary 468 Alternative Program shall be confidential, not subject to 469 public disclosure, and not available for court subpoena or for 470 discovery proceedings. The records of a licensee who fails to 471 comply with the program agreement or who leaves the state 472 prior to the successful completion of the program are not 473 confidential. Information regarding the participation of a 474 licensee in the Disciplinary Alternative Program reported to the coordinated licensure information system pursuant to 475 476 Section 34-21-125 shall be made available solely to other



state boards of nursing and shall not be disclosed to the

public by the coordinated licensure information system. Upon

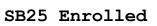
successful completion of the Disciplinary Alternative Program,

all information regarding participation of the licensee in the

Disciplinary Alternative Program shall be expunged from the

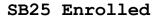
coordinated licensure information system.

- (7) Nonpublic or confidential data submitted to the coordinated licensure information system by the board may not be distributed to any nonparty state, organization, person individual, or entity, or any foreign government or an agent, entity, or representative of a foreign government, without the express written approval of the board.
- (8) On request and payment of a certified verification fee, the board shall provide a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse licensed by this state with a copy of any information regarding the nurse maintained by the coordinated licensure information system under Article 7.
 - (9) The board is not obligated to provide information that is not otherwise available to the board or information that is not available to the nurse_licensee under the laws of the state contributing the information to the coordinated licensure information system or that has been designated as available only to other boards of nursing by the state contributing the information to the coordinated licensure information system.
- 502 (10) Nothing in this subsection shall limit the
 503 authority of the board to discipline an impaired individual
 504 licensee subject to its jurisdiction.





505	(k) The board may adopt rules imposing a
506	nondisciplinary administrative penalty for designated
507	violations of this chapter."
508	Section 2. This act shall become effective on October
509	1, 2024.





President and Presiding Officer of the Senate Speaker of the House of Representatives SB25 Senate 27-Feb-24 I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and passed the Senate. Patrick Harris, Secretary. House of Representatives Passed: 30-Apr-24 By: Senator Weaver