

A.C.A. Tit. 17, Subtit. 3., Ch. 87, Subch. 2 Note

Current through all legislation of the 2025 Regular Session.

AR - Arkansas Code Annotated > **Title 17 Professions, Occupations, and
Businesses** > **Subtitle 3. Medical Professions** > **Chapter 87 Nurses** >
Subchapter 2 — Arkansas State Board of Nursing

Tit. 17, Subtit. 3., Ch. 87, Subch. 2 Note

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A.C.A. § 17-87-201

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17-87-201. Creation — Members.

(a) There is created the Arkansas State Board of Nursing, to be composed of thirteen (13) members to be appointed by the Governor for terms of four (4) years, subject to confirmation by the Senate.

(b)

(1) Five (5) members shall be registered nurses whose highest level of educational preparation shall be as follows:

(A) One (1) nursing diploma graduate;

(B) Two (2) associate degree graduates; and

(C) Two (2) baccalaureate degree or postbaccalaureate degree graduates.

(2) Each registered nurse member of the board shall have the following qualifications:

(A) Be an Arkansas resident;

(B) Have at least five (5) years of successful experience as a registered nurse in nursing practice, administration, or teaching;

(C) Be licensed in Arkansas as a registered nurse; and

(D) Have been employed as a registered nurse for at least three (3) years immediately preceding appointment, two (2) years of which shall have been in Arkansas.

(c)

(1) Two (2) members shall be licensed advanced practice registered nurses.

(2) Each licensed advanced practice registered nurse board member shall have the following qualifications:

(A) Be an Arkansas resident;

(B) Have at least five (5) years of experience as an advanced practice registered nurse;

(C) Be licensed in Arkansas as an advanced practice registered nurse; and

(D) Have been actively engaged in nursing for at least three (3) years immediately preceding appointment, two (2) years of which shall have been in Arkansas.

(3) One (1) member who is an advance practice registered nurse shall hold a certificate granting prescriptive authority.

(d)

(1) Three (3) members shall be licensed practical nurses or licensed psychiatric technician nurses.

(2) Each licensed practical nurse board member or licensed psychiatric technician nurse board member shall have the following qualifications:

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- (A) Be an Arkansas resident;
 - (B) Have at least five (5) years of successful experience as a practical nurse or psychiatric technician nurse or as a teacher in an educational program to prepare practitioners of nursing;
 - (C) Be licensed in Arkansas as a licensed practical nurse or licensed psychiatric technician nurse; and
 - (D) Have been employed as a licensed practical nurse or as a licensed psychiatric technician nurse for at least three (3) years immediately preceding appointment, two (2) years of which shall have been in Arkansas.
- (e) One (1) member shall be an at-large licensed registered nurse or licensed practical nurse.
 - (f) At least one (1) member who is a licensed registered nurse or advanced practice registered nurse also shall be a nursing program educator.
 - (g) One (1) member shall be a lay person representing consumers of healthcare services.
 - (h)
 - (1) One (1) member shall be sixty (60) years of age or older and shall be the representative of the elderly.
 - (2) This member shall be appointed from the state at large, subject to confirmation by the Senate, and shall be a full voting member.
 - (i) The consumer representative and the representative of the elderly positions may not be filled by the same person.
 - (j) A member shall not be appointed to more than two (2) consecutive terms.
 - (k) Board members may receive expense reimbursement and stipends in accordance with [§ 25-16-901](#) et seq.
 - (l) The terms of all registered nurse members and advanced practice registered nurse members shall be four (4) years.

History

Acts 1971, No. 432, §§ 3, 4; 1977, No. 113, §§ 1-3; 1979, No. 404, §§ 2, 3; 1981, No. 717, § 2; 1983, No. 131, §§ 1-3, 5; 1983, No. 135, §§ 1-3, 5; 1985, No. 189, § 1; A.S.A. 1947, §§ 6-617 — 6-619, 6-623 — 6-626, 72-747, 72-748; [Acts 1995, No. 409, § 5](#); [1997, No. 250, § 159](#); [1999, No. 941, § 1](#); [2001, No. 149, §§ 1, 2](#); [2007, No. 205, § 1](#); [2013, No. 604, §§ 7, 8](#); [2015, No. 997, § 1](#).

[A.C.A. § 17-87-202](#)

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17-87-202. Organization and proceedings.

(a)

(1) It shall be the duty of the Arkansas State Board of Nursing to meet regularly at least one (1) time every six (6) months for the purpose of conducting its business.

(2) Special meetings of the board may be called at any time at the pleasure of the President of the Arkansas State Board of Nursing or by the Secretary of the Arkansas State Board of Nursing on the request of any three (3) members of the board.

(3) A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the board.

(4) The board shall determine by its own rules the time and manner of giving notice of meetings to its members.

(5) The giving of an examination for licensure shall not be considered as a meeting of the board.

(b) The secretary shall keep a record of the minutes of the meetings of the board, together with a record of the action of the board thereon. The records shall at all reasonable times be open for public inspection.

(c) The Department of Health shall maintain an office for the administration of the board's business.

(d) The board shall annually elect a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer from among its members. The president shall be a registered nurse.

(e) The Director of the Arkansas State Board of Nursing shall be a registered nurse and meet the qualifications required by the board.

History

Acts 1971, No. 432, §§ 4, 8, 9; 1979, No. 404, §§ 3, 5, 6; A.S.A. 1947, §§ 72-748, 72-752, 72-753; Acts 2003, No. 41, § 1; [2019, No. 910, § 4878](#).

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17-87-203. Powers and duties.

The Arkansas State Board of Nursing shall have the following powers and responsibilities:

(1)

(A) Promulgate whatever rules it deems necessary for the implementation of this chapter.

(B) No rule promulgated hereafter by the board shall be effective until reviewed by the Legislative Council and the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor and the Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor or appropriate subcommittees thereof;

(2) Cause the prosecution of persons violating this chapter;

(3) Keep a record of all its proceedings;

(4) Make an annual report to the Secretary of the Department of Health;

(5) Employ a Director of the Arkansas State Board of Nursing, in consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Health, if the board determines it necessary for carrying out its functions;

(6) Study, review, develop, and recommend role levels of technical classes of nursing service and practice to state and federal health agencies and to public and private administrative bodies;

(7) Fix the time for holding its regular meetings;

(8) Prescribe minimum standards and approve curricula for educational programs preparing persons for licensure as registered nurses, advanced practice registered nurses, registered nurse practitioner nurses, licensed practical nurses, and licensed psychiatric technician nurses;

(9) Prescribe minimum standards and approve curricula for educational programs preparing persons for certification as medication assistive persons;

(10) Provide for surveys of such programs at such times as it deems necessary or at the request of the schools;

(11) Approve programs that meet the requirements of this chapter;

(12) Deny or withdraw approval from educational programs for failure to meet prescribed standards;

(13) Examine, certify, and renew the certification of qualified applicants for medication assistive persons;

(14) Examine, license, and renew the licenses of qualified applicants for professional nursing, practical nursing, and psychiatric technician nursing;

(15) License and renew the licenses of qualified applicants for registered nurse practitioner nursing and advanced practice nursing;

(16) Grant certificates of prescriptive authority to qualified advanced practice registered nurses;

17-87-203. Powers and duties.

- (17) Convene an advisory committee as provided for in this chapter to assist with oversight of prescriptive authority;
- (18) Establish the maximum number of medication assistive persons who may be supervised by a nurse;
- (19) Conduct disciplinary proceedings as provided for in this chapter; and
- (20) Promulgate rules limiting the amount of Schedule II narcotics that may be prescribed and dispensed by licensees of the board.

History

Acts 1971, No. 432, § 4; 1979, No. 404, § 3; A.S.A. 1947, § 72-748; [Acts 1995, No. 409, § 6](#); [1997, No. 179, § 13](#); [2005, No. 1423, § 2](#); [2013, No. 604, §§ 9](#), 10; [2017, No. 820, § 9](#); [2019, No. 315, § 1541](#); [2019, No. 910, § 4879](#); [2023, No. 365, § 41](#).

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17-87-204. Deposit of funds.

All funds received by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing shall be deposited into the State Treasury to the credit of the board.

History

Acts 1971, No. 432, § 14; 1979, No. 404, § 4; A.S.A. 1947, § 72-758.

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17-87-205. Prescriptive Authority Advisory Committee.

(a)

(1) The Prescriptive Authority Advisory Committee is created as an advisory committee to the Arkansas State Board of Nursing.

(2) The committee shall assist the board in implementing the provisions of this chapter regarding prescriptive authority.

(b) The board shall appoint six (6) members, to be approved by the Governor, who have the following qualifications:

(1) Four (4) members shall be advanced practice registered nurses at least three (3) of whom hold certificates of prescriptive authority and an active United States Drug Enforcement Administration number;

(2) One (1) member shall be a licensed physician who has been involved in a collaborative practice with an advanced practice registered nurse for at least five (5) years; and

(3) One (1) member shall be a licensed pharmacist who has been licensed for at least five (5) years.

(c) Members shall serve three-year terms.

(d) The board may remove any committee member, after notice and hearing, for incapacity, incompetence, neglect of duty, or malfeasance in office.

(e) The members shall serve without compensation, but may receive expense reimbursement in accordance with [§ 25-16-901](#) et seq.

History

[Acts 1995, No. 409, § 7](#); [1997, No. 250, § 160](#); [2013, No. 604, § 11](#).

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17-87-206. Subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum.

(a) The Arkansas State Board of Nursing shall have the power to issue subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum in connection with both its investigations and hearings.

(b) A subpoena duces tecum may require any book, writing, document, or other paper or thing which is germane to an investigation or hearing conducted by the board to be transmitted to the board.

(c)

(1) Service of a subpoena shall be as provided by law for the service of subpoenas in civil cases in the circuit courts of this state, and the fees and mileage of officers serving the subpoenas and of witnesses appearing in answer to the subpoenas shall be the same as provided by law for proceedings in civil cases in the circuit courts of this state.

(2)

(A) The board shall issue a subpoena or subpoena duces tecum upon the request of any party to a hearing before the board.

(B) The fees and mileage of the officers serving the subpoena and of the witness shall be paid by the party at whose request a witness is subpoenaed.

(d)

(1) In the event a person shall have been served with a subpoena or subpoena duces tecum as provided in this section and fails to comply therewith, the board may apply to the circuit court of the county in which the board is conducting its investigation or hearing for an order causing the arrest of the person and directing that the person be brought before the court.

(2) The court shall have the power to punish the disobedient person for contempt as provided by law in the trial of civil cases in the circuit courts of this state.

History

[Acts 1997, No. 894, § 1.](#)

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17-87-207. Continuing education.

(a)

(1) The Arkansas State Board of Nursing shall adopt rules setting minimum standards for continuing education to ensure that all licensed nurses remain informed about those technical and professional subjects which the board deems appropriate to nursing practice.

(2) The board shall not require more than twenty (20) hours of continuing education per year.

(b) The board shall make every effort to ensure that the continuing education programs are offered either within the nurse's workplace or at another place convenient to the nurse, whether through live presentation or distance learning.

(c)

(1) The board shall adopt rules to prescribe the methods by which the minimum standards for continuing education may be satisfied.

(2) The failure of any licensed nurse to satisfy the minimum standards for continuing education shall be grounds for disciplinary action or nonrenewal of the nurse's license, or both.

History

[Acts 2001, No. 86, § 1.](#)

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17-87-208. Collection of nursing workforce and nursing education data.

- (a) The Arkansas State Board of Nursing may create a data repository to collect, report, track, and trend data regarding nursing education and the nursing workforce in Arkansas for more timely and accurate tracking of the nursing education and nursing workforce throughout the state.
- (b) The data collection described in subsection (a) of this section shall include data relating to the root causes of nurse retention and nurse turnover throughout the state.
- (c)
- (1) The board shall create and establish an action plan for the nursing workforce in Arkansas to improve nurse availability across the state.
- (2) The action plan described in subdivision (c)(1) of this section shall be updated annually and include stakeholder feedback.
- (d) The board may contract with a non-state entity to fulfill the requirements of this section.
- (e) The board may apply for one-time funds under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, *Pub. L. No. 117-2*, if available and eligible, to fund the first two-years' expense to create the data repository, but may not exceed five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) in funds under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, *Pub. L. No. 117-2*.

History

[Acts 2023, No. 673, § 1.](#)

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17-87-209. Clinical Nurse Education Portal.

- (a) The Department of Health, in coordination with the Arkansas State Board of Nursing, shall establish the “Clinical Nurse Education Portal”, if funds are available.
- (b) The portal shall:
- (1) Be a statewide management software system that contains information for all nursing programs in Arkansas in relation to clinical nursing placement access for nursing students and healthcare facilities;
 - (2) Be compliant with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, [20 U.S.C. § 1232g](#), and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, *Pub. L. No. 104-191*;
 - (3) Provide clinical access and utilization data to the board to inform future quality improvement initiatives;
 - (4) Contain compliance, orientation, clinical schedules, and affiliation information for a clinical nursing placement; and
 - (5) Be accessible to all healthcare providers and nursing programs with clinical hour requirements, including simulation laboratory hours.
- (c) The department may contract with a non-state entity to establish and maintain the portal.
- (d)
- (1) All nursing programs and healthcare providers participating or desiring to participate in providing nursing clinical experiences shall have access to the portal and the ability to manage clinical requests, affiliations, and clinical compliance utilizing the software.
 - (2) A nursing program or healthcare provider is not required to adopt the use of the portal as their primary clinical experience management software.
- (e)
- (1) On the year-anniversary of August 1, 2023, and annually thereafter, the department shall report on the implementation, progress, and activity of the portal to the:
 - (A) Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor; and
 - (B) House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor.
 - (2) The Chair of the Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor or the Chair of the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor may request any additional reports at his or her discretion.
- (f)
- (1) The portal may be funded by one-time funds under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, *Pub. L. No. 117-2*, if available and eligible, to fund personnel and build software programs.

17-87-209. Clinical Nurse Education Portal.

- (2) In order to maintain the portal, the department may charge a fee to nursing programs or healthcare providers, or both, that use the portal.
- (g) The department may expand the portal to include other disciplines of healthcare professionals.

History

[Acts 2023, No. 674, § 1.](#)

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