

2015-2016 Regular Session - SB 314
Nurses; advanced nursing practices; revise certain provisions;
provide for changes

SB314

Sponsored By

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Committees SC: Health and Human Services HC: Health & Human Services

First Reader Summary

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 26 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to nurses, so as to revise certain provisions relating to advanced nursing practice; to provide for changes to the roles and definitions of advanced nursing practice and advanced practice registered nurses; to provide for renewal of licenses; to revise certain criminal background check requirements; to provide that a criminal background check is part of the renewal process; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

-This proposed bill was initiated by the GA BON to strengthen APRN licensure language to be consistent with the Nurse Compact Agreement. The Compact, allowing nurses to practice under one license in multiple states, requires APRNs to have a unique nursing license. GA currently “authorizes” NP practice.

-In 2008 GA BON began to require RNs to have criminal background checks (CBC) for initial licensure, endorsement from another state, and reinstatement. The LPN requirement began in 2011. The majority of current GA licensees have never had a biometric (fingerprint included) CBC under the BON. The language in the current bill was left permissive in order to allow the Board to audit a manageable number of licensees during each renewal cycle.

-PAs and MDs are required to have a CBC only if working in a pain clinic.

-The primary purpose of boards of nursing (BONs) is to protect the public. One way this is accomplished is by the enforcement of minimum standards for licensure. The practice of nursing deals with vulnerable populations and, as such, there may be a criminal history within the background of the applicant that could have a significant impact on the ability to safely care for and interact with patients/clients. Therefore, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) approved this as a standard in 2013. [NCSBN Background Check Standard](#)

-The number of GA BON complaints, including applicants with criminal records discovered during state background checks, is increasing, in part, to national database access made available through NCSBN resources. [GABON 2015 Annual Report](#)

-For those not representing law enforcement or the courts (i.e. Boards of Nursing), the FBI requires statutory authority to access the FBI database.

Talking Points 2/25/2016