

SB 642: APRN Full Practice Authority

Sponsor: Senator Heather Steans

The goal: Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) shall practice at the highest level of their education and expertise, as recommended by the 2010 Institute of Medicine's Report on the Future of Nursing.

In Illinois, thousands seek health care for colds, flu, childbirth, geriatric care or mental health services. More and more it is Advanced Practice Registered Nurses who are providing that personalized care.

When APRNs were first licensed, it was required that physicians delegate any practice authority through a written collaborative agreement (WCA). This regulatory barrier has outlived its purpose and is often a hindrance to access to care from the now proven advanced practice nursing profession.

SB 642: Authorizes legislators to remove the WCA mandate and increase access to care by APRNs. The proposals include:

- Change the protected title to Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) to reflect the national standard.
- Allows nationally Certified Nurse Practitioners (CNP), Nurse Midwives (CNM), or Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS) the ability to practice in all clinical settings without a written collaborative agreement (WCA) after meeting requirements of a postgraduate practice period.
- Postgraduate APRN Practice - transition to full practice authority (FPA) by meeting the following mandates: 1) meets licensure qualifications for an APRN license, 2) has obtained a written collaborative agreement (no change in delegation language in current Act regarding content of a WCA) with a physician or privileged in a hospital, hospital affiliate or Ambulatory Surgical Treatment Center, 3) Completion of no less than 3000 hours (1½ years of full time practice)
- Requires, all APRNs as part of the 50 hours (no change in total number of hours) of continuing education requirement, obtain 20 hours of pharmacology with 10 of those hours of continuing education being specific to Schedule II medications.

ON DECEMBER 14, 2016 - THE UNITED STATES VETERANS AFFAIRS GRANTED CNPs, CNMs, AND CNSs FULL PRACTICE AUTHORITY ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

23 STATES ALLOW APRNs TO PRACTICE TO THE FULL LEVEL OF THEIR EDUCATION AND EXPERTISE.

