**PROPOSED LEGISLATION FOR APRN EXPANSION OF PRACTICE**

**SUMMARY**

**Purpose:**

Increase the scope of practice of CNS and CRNAs to reflect education and training. Clarify statutory ambiguity impacting patient access to NPs and CNMs.

**Background:**

Four different Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) roles are recognized nationally and in Arizona: Nurse Practitioners (NP), Certified Nurse-Midwives (CNM), Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS) and Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA). A number of national organizations, including the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies, have recommended that the expansion of practice of APRNs can address issues of healthcare access and cost-effectiveness and is proven to safely provide additional services to the public.

**Provisions**:

*Applying to all APRNs*

* Clarification of education and certification requirements and establishment of licensure rather than certification.
* Establishment of educational standards to guide the Board of Nursing in the promulgation of rules for certification of prescribing authority. The rules require consultation with the MD, DO and Pharmacy Boards including their receipt of proposed draft rules at least sixty days before any public comment is scheduled.
* Prescribing authority limited to the scope and focus of care of the APRN.
* Technical and conforming changes in statutes related to education, regulation, licensing, grandfathering and fees.

*Applying to NP’s and Nurse Midwives*

* Addresses ambiguity of the use of the term “collaboration” in A.R.S. 32-1606 B. 12 by removing from statute and replacing with statutory requirement for consultation and referral.

*Applying to CNS’s*

* Provision for certification for CNS seeking prescribing authority.

*Applying to CRNA’s*

* Clarification of scope of practice of CRNAs in providing services for other healthcare providers and provision for certification of CRNAs seeking prescribing authority. Limitations on writing prescriptions for patient self-administration of opioids and for other agents no more than 30 days from procedure, test or childbirth delivery.
* Authorization for CRNAs to offer chronic pain management services with the following requirements and limitations :
  + Completion of education and preceptorship requirements for certification by the Board of Nursing.
  + Only on receipt of a referral, diagnosis and medical records from a health care professional licensed pursuant to Title 32, chapters 7, 11, 13, 17, 25 or a licensed nurse practitioner.
  + Requirement of use of Prescription Monitoring Database and development of treatment plans when prescribing opioids.
  + Monitoring of prescription practice by the Board of Nursing.

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