



**House Boards, Agencies and Commissions Reported
Substitute for HB194**

A BILL

TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

Relating to the Joint Committee of the State Board of Medical Examiners and the Board of Nursing for Advanced Practice Nurses; to amend Sections 34-21-81 and 34-21-82, Code of Alabama 1975; to revise membership of the joint committee and the per diem provided to members.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Sections 34-21-81 and 34-21-82, Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:

"§34-21-81

As used in this article, the following terms ~~shall~~ have the following meanings:

(1) ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSE. A registered nurse who has gained additional knowledge and skills through successful completion of an organized program of nursing education that prepares nurses for advanced practice roles and has been certified by the Board of Nursing to engage in the practice of advanced practice nursing. There shall be four categories of advanced practice nurses: Certified registered nurse practitioners (CRNP), certified nurse midwives (CNM), certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNA), and clinical



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nurse specialists (CNS). Certified registered nurse practitioners and certified nurse midwives are subject to collaborative practice agreements with an Alabama physician. Certified registered nurse anesthetists and clinical nurse specialists are not subject to collaborative practice agreements with an Alabama physician and are not subject to the requirements of Sections 34-21-82, 34-21-83, and 34-21-85 to 34-21-92, inclusive, and are prohibited from engaging in any of the acts or functions of a certified registered nurse practitioner (CRNP) or a certified nurse midwife (CNM) as established by this article and rules adopted under this article.

(2) ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSING. The delivery of health care services by registered nurses who have gained additional knowledge and skills through successful completion of an organized program of nursing education that prepares nurses for advanced practice roles as certified registered nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives, certified nurse anesthetists, and clinical nurse specialists:

a. Practice as a certified registered nurse practitioner (CRNP) means the performance of nursing skills by a registered nurse who has demonstrated by certification that he or she has advanced knowledge and skills in the delivery of nursing services within a health care system that provides for consultation, collaborative management, or referral as indicated by the health status of the client.

b. Practice as a certified nurse midwife (CNM) means the performance of nursing skills by a registered nurse who



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has demonstrated by certification that he or she has advanced knowledge and skills relative to the management of women's health care focusing on pregnancy, childbirth, the postpartum period, care of the newborn, family planning, and gynecological needs of women, within a health care system that provides for consultation, collaborative management, or referral as indicated by the health status of the client.

c. Practice as a certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA) means the performance of or the assistance in any act involving the determination, preparation, administration, procedural ordering, or monitoring of any drug used to render an individual insensible to pain for surgical and other therapeutic or diagnostic procedures. The nurse anesthetist is qualified in accordance with Section 27-46-3 and is licensed by the Board of Nursing and functions under the direction of or in coordination with a physician licensed to practice medicine, a podiatrist, or a dentist, who is immediately available. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to restrict the authority of a health care facility to adopt policies relating to the provision of anesthesia and analgesia services.

d. Practice of clinical nurse specialist (CNS) nursing means the performance of nursing skills by a registered nurse who, through study and supervised practice at the graduate level and as evidenced by certification, has advanced knowledge and practice skills in a specialized area of practice, except that a clinical nurse specialist may not do any of the following:



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1. Perform delegated medical acts or engage in collaborative practice as described in this article.

2. Perform any of the functions of a certified registered nurse practitioner or a certified nurse midwife as described in this article and the rules adopted under this article, whether or not performed within a collaborative practice relationship.

3. Prescribe drugs of any type. A clinical nurse specialist may perform nursing services permitted under this subdivision as an independent contractor.

(3) BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS. The State Board of Medical Examiners established pursuant to Section 34-24-53.

(4) BOARD OF NURSING. The Board of Nursing established under Section 34-21-2.

(5) COLLABORATION. A formal relationship between one or more certified registered nurse practitioners and certified nurse midwives and a physician or physicians under which these nurses may engage in advanced practice nursing as evidenced by written protocols approved in accordance with the requirements of this article or exempted in accordance with requirements of this article. The term collaboration does not require direct, on-site supervision of the activities of a certified registered nurse practitioner or a certified nurse midwife by the collaborating physician. The term does require such professional oversight and direction as may be required by the rules of the State Board of Medical Examiners and the Board of Nursing.

(6) COORDINATION WITH. When an anesthesiologist is not



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physically present, the working relationship between a physician, a podiatrist, or a dentist and a certified registered nurse anesthetist licensed to practice in this state. Each contributes his or her respective expertise in the provision of patient care, which includes the discussion of patient treatment, diagnosis, and consultation.

(7) JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS AND THE BOARD OF NURSING FOR ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSES. The Joint Committee of the State Board of Medical Examiners and the Board of Nursing for Advanced Practice Nurses shall mean and shall be a committee composed of all of the following:

a. Two physicians licensed to practice medicine in ~~the State of Alabama~~ this state.

~~b. One registered nurse licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Alabama.~~

eb. One licensed physician engaged in a collaborative practice with a certified registered nurse practitioner or a certified nurse midwife in ~~the State of Alabama~~ this state.

ed. ~~One~~ Two certified registered nurse ~~practitioner~~ practitioners engaged in ~~advanced practice~~ an active collaborative practice with a physician in ~~the State of Alabama~~ this state.

ed. One certified nurse midwife engaged in ~~advanced practice~~ an active collaborative practice with a physician in ~~the State of Alabama~~ this state.

(8) LEGEND DRUG. Any drug, medicine, chemical, or poison bearing on the label the words, "Caution, Federal Law



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prohibits dispensing without prescription" or similar words indicating that the drug, medicine, chemical, or poison may be sold or dispensed only upon the prescription of a licensed practitioner, except that the term legend drug shall not include any drug, substance, or compound which is listed in Schedules I through V of the Alabama Uniform Controlled Substances Act.

(9) PHYSICIAN or COLLABORATING PHYSICIAN. A doctor of medicine or a doctor of osteopathy licensed to practice medicine in Alabama who agrees in writing to practice in collaboration with one or more certified registered nurse practitioners or certified nurse midwives in accordance with the rules adopted by the State Board of Medical Examiners and the Board of Nursing.

(10) PRESCRIBE or PRESCRIBING. The act of issuing a written prescription for a legend drug.

(11) PRESCRIPTION. An order for a legend drug which is written and signed by a practitioner authorized by law to prescribe and administer such drugs and which is intended to be filled, compounded, or dispensed by a pharmacist.

(12) PROCEDURAL ORDERING. The ordering of the anesthesia plan, including the ordering of medications and tests before, during, or after analgesia or anesthesia in accordance with the anesthesia plan.

(13) PROTOCOL. A document approved in accordance with Section 34-21-87 establishing the permissible functions and activities to be performed by certified registered nurse practitioners and certified nurse midwives and signed by



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collaborating physicians and any nurse practitioners or nurse midwives practicing with those physicians."

"§34-21-82

(a) (1) The physician members of the joint committee shall be appointed by the State Board of Medical Examiners ~~and shall serve three-year terms as set out below.~~

(2) The ~~registered nurse~~ certified registered nurse practitioner members of the joint committee shall be appointed by the Board of Nursing ~~and shall serve three-year terms as set out below~~ ;

a. One seat shall be filled from a list of no fewer than two names submitted by the Nurse Practitioner Alliance of Alabama, or its successor organization. The initial member appointed shall serve a term commencing on October 1, 2025, and ending on September 30, 2028.

b. One seat shall be filled from a list of no fewer than two names submitted by the Alabama State Nurses Association, or its successor organization. The initial member appointed shall serve a term commencing on October 1, 2025, and ending on September 30, 2027.

(3) The certified nurse midwife member of the joint committee shall be appointed by the Board of Nursing from a list of no fewer than two names submitted by the Alabama affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives. The initial member appointed shall serve a term commencing on October 1, 2026, and ending on September 30, 2029.

(4) Following initial terms, all members shall serve three-year terms. No member shall serve more than two full



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terms, either consecutively or separately.

~~(b) (1) In order to stagger the terms of office, the Board of Nursing and the State Board of Medical Examiners will each appoint to the initial joint committee one member for a term of one year, one member for a term of two years, and one member for a term of three years. Should~~

(b) If a vacancy ~~occur~~ occurs on the committee, a successor ~~will~~ shall be appointed by the respective appointing authority in subsection (a) to serve the unexpired term.

(c) The committee shall select one of its members to serve as ~~chairperson~~ chair for a one-year term, ~~.~~

~~(2) The office of chairperson shall~~
~~alternate~~ alternating between a physician member of the committee and a nurse member of the committee.

~~(3)~~ (d) The committee shall meet annually, or more frequently if requested by the State Board of Medical Examiners or the Board of Nursing. Members of the committee shall receive a per diem at a daily rate ~~of \$100 per~~ determined by the respective appointing authority. The daily rate shall apply to any day or any portion thereof that such a committee member shall be in attendance at an official meeting or function of the committee and in addition shall receive reimbursement for subsistence and travel in accordance with state law for each day actively engaged in the duties of their offices. The State Board of Medical Examiners shall pay the per diem and expenses of the physician members and the Board of Nursing shall pay the per diem and expenses of the nurse members, ~~each appoints to the joint committee~~ and both boards



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225 shall furnish necessary clerical and administrative support
226 for operation of the committee."

227 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October
228 1, 2025.