

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

DIVISION OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

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January, 2019

Dear Licensed Nursing Assistant,

The Board of Nursing has been working with its members and the NH State Workforce groups to identify ways to decrease barriers to the workforce. One idea proposed in 2019 legislation is to eliminate the requirement for licensure for nursing assistants. The BON currently maintains all nursing assistants on a nursing assistant registry. The nurse assistant registry is federally required in all states and required for employment. NH licensing, criminal background check and the fees currently required are extra, unnecessary steps and expense that would be eliminated. With this legislation, a nursing assistant would be Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA), once eligible for the national registry. You may recall being added to the national registry after passing the requirements set by your licensed nursing assistant program. This is the way CNA's are registered and eligible in 44 other states.

Your scope of service as a nursing assistant would not change in any way. Your employer's expectations, the work that you perform, the delegation that you receive to do your work, and your education and work hour requirements all stay the same. You would maintain your nursing assistant registry status every two years by showing proof of work hours and continuing education, as is currently the case.

In summary, the benefits to this legislation are:

1. Simplify the process for nursing assistants seeking employment by adding the nurse assistant to only the Nurse Aide Registry.
2. Eliminate the current complex application for licensure process.
3. Eliminate the Criminal Background Check which costs \$47.00.
4. Eliminate the initial license fee which costs \$35.00
5. Eliminate the renewal licensing fee which costs \$25.00

6. Maintain initial, endorsement, renewal and reinstatement applications on just the Nurse Aide Registry.

We look forward to serving better the needs of nurse licensees and their employers across NH. If you have any questions, please contact the board at: [board.questions@oplcr.nh.gov](mailto:board.questions@oplcr.nh.gov). Thank you for serving the healthcare needs of New Hampshire's citizens.

For the Board,

Denise M. Nies MSN, RN, BC

Board Administrator