

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE

NO. 5

House of Representatives, Jan. 21, 1915.

Ordered, that five hundred copies be printed and that the same be referred to the Committee on Legal Affairs.

Committee of Reference.

Presented by Mr. Perkins of Augusta.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE
HUNDRED AND FIFTEEN

AN ACT to create a Board of Examination and Registration
of Nurses.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Section 1. Within sixty days after this bill shall go into
2 effect the governor with the advice and consent of the coun-
3 cil shall appoint a board of examination and registration
4 of nurses, consisting of four nurses and one physician.

The nurses appointed on this board shall have been gradu-
6 ated each from a different training school, connected with
7 a hospital of good standing, presided over by a graduate
8 nurse, giving at least a two years' general course in theory

9 and practice of nursing in the wards and shall have had at
10 least five years' experience from date of graduation in pro-
11 fessional nursing of the sick, and with the exception of
12 those appointed as members of this first board shall have
13 been registered under the provisions of this act.

The physician appointed on this board shall have been
15 graduated at least five years, shall be a member of the Maine
16 Medical Association, and shall be associated with a general
17 hospital maintaining a training school for nurses.

There shall be at all times at least two members of the
19 board who shall have had two or more years' experience in
20 educational work among nurses.

All members of this board shall be actual residents of the
22 state and engaged in professional work. Each member shall
23 be appointed for a term of three years, except those first
24 appointed who shall serve as follows: one for one year, two
25 for two years, and two for three years. Any vacancy in
26 said board shall be filled by the appointment of a person
27 qualified as aforesaid to hold office during the unexpired
28 term of the member whose place he or she fills, and any
29 member may be removed from office for cause by the gov-
30 ernor with the advice and consent of the council.

Sect. 2. Said board shall, at the first meeting thereof, and
2 at its annual meetings thereafter, elect from its own num-
3 ber a president and a secretary who shall also be treasurer.
4 Said board may adopt a seal and pin, which shall be placed

5 in the care of the secretary and may adopt such by-laws,
6 rules and regulations for the transaction of the business of
7 the board and the government and management of its affairs,
8 not inconsistent with the laws of this state and of the United
9 States, as it may deem expedient. Three members of said
10 board shall constitute a quorum, and special meetings shall
11 be called upon request of any two members. The secretary
12 shall be required to keep a record of all meetings of the
13 board, including a register of the names of all nurses duly
14 registered under this act which shall be open at all reason-
15 able times to public scrutiny and to furnish a certificate of
16 registration to all such nurses, said certificate to be renewed
17 at the end of five years upon payment of one dollar to the
18 examining board, with affidavit to show his or her identity,
19 at least three months' notice having been given, by registered
20 letter, of expiration of said certificate. The board shall
21 provide a schedule of the subjects upon which applicants
22 shall be examined to qualify for the requirements of this
23 act. On request of said board, the superintendent of public
24 buildings shall provide a suitable room in the capitol for
25 its meetings.

Sect. 3. The members of said board shall receive their
2 actual necessary expenses incurred in the discharge of their
3 duties, and the secretary shall receive a salary to be fixed
4 by the board, not to exceed two hundred and fifty dollars
5 per year. The other members of the board shall each re-

6 ceive four dollars per day while actually engaged in attend-
7 ance upon meetings of said board. Said expenses and said
8 salary shall be paid out of the receipts of said board as here-
9 inafter specified. No charge or expense of any kind shall
10 ever become a charge against the state.

Sect. 4. At a meeting of said board to be held within
2 sixty days after the appointment of members thereof and
3 at the annual meeting in each year thereafter and at such
4 special meetings as said board may deem necessary to hold
5 for that purpose, notice of each of which meetings shall
6 be given by publication at least one month previous to such
7 meetings in such newspapers and nursing journals as the
8 board may determine, said board shall examine all appli-
9 cants for registration under the provisions of this act to
10 determine their qualifications for the efficient nursing of
11 the sick, and shall decide upon the qualifications of every
12 such applicant and give notice of such decision within three
13 months from the date of such examination. Application
14 for registration shall be made upon blanks furnished by the
15 board and shall be signed and sworn to by applicant. Any
16 person twenty-one years of age or over and of good moral
17 character who shall show to the satisfaction of the board
18 that he or she is a resident of the state, is a graduate of a
19 training school for nurses in good standing, which gives at
20 least a two years' course in a public or private hospital in
21 which a general course of instruction in theory and prac-

22 tice of medical, surgical and obstetrical nursing, or in case
23 of male nurses of genito-urinary work instead of obstetrics,
24 is given, or has had such experience obtained by affiliation
25 or post-graduate work, shall be eligible for such examina-
26 tion upon payment of a fee of five dollars, to be deposited
27 upon the filing of the application for examiantion. Said
28 examination shall be oral and written and shall include the
29 subjects of elementary anatomy and physiology, materia
30 medica, medical, surgical and obstetrical nursing, dietetics,
31 home sanitation and nursing. If such applicant shall pass
32 said examination to the satisfaction of the board, he or she
33 shall receive a certificate of registration.

Sect. 5. Any resident of the state twenty-one years of
2 age or over, and of good moral character, appyling for
3 registration within two years from the passage of this act,
4 and who shall, by affidavit or otherwise, show to the satis-
5 faction of the board that he or she is a graduate of a train-
6 ing school for nurses, which gives at least a two years'
7 course in a public or private hospital where a general course
8 of instruction is given, or that he or she was, at the passage
9 of this act, a student in such a training school for nurses,
10 and afterwards was graduated therefrom, shall be eligible
11 for registration without examination, upon the payment of
12 a fee of five dollars. The board shall have the power to
13 register in like manner without examination, upon payment
14 of the usual fee, any person who has been registered as a

15 professional nurse in another state under laws, which in
16 the opinion of the board, maintain a standard substantially
17 similar to that of this act, and which extends a similar
18 courtesy to nurses registered in this state.

Sect. 6. Said board may cancel the registration of any
2 person who has been convicted of any felony, or of any
3 crime or misdemeanor in the practice of the profession of
4 nursing.

Sect. 7. It shall be unlawful after six months from the
2 passage of this act, for any person to practice professional
3 nursing in this state as a registered nurse without having a
4 certificate of registration. A nurse who has received such
5 certificate and pin shall be styled and known as a "regis-
6 tered nurse," and no other person shall assume such title,
7 use the pin, the abbreviation "R. N." or any other words,
8 letters, or figures to indicate that the person using the same
9 is such a registered nurse. Every person who shall violate
10 any provision of this act, or who shall wilfully make false
11 representation to said board in applying for a certificate of
12 registration, shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars;
13 provided, that nothing in this act shall be held to apply to
14 the acts of any person nursing the sick who does not repre-
15 sent himself or herself to be a registered nurse. The board
16 shall cause to be presented to the proper prosecuting officer
17 evidence of any violation of the provision of this act and
18 may incur any necessary expenses in the performance of

19 this duty, said expenses to be paid out of the receipts of said
20 board.

Sect. 8. All fees collected by said board, under the pro-
2 visions of this act, shall be paid to the treasurer of the board,
3 and said treasurer shall pay from the moneys so received,
4 upon approval of the president, the salary of the secretary
5 and the necessary expenses of the members, as provided in
6 section 3 of this act, also for books, stationery, and other
7 necessary expenses of the board; provided, that said board
8 shall create or incur no expense exceeding the sum received
9 from time to time as fees under the provisions of this act.
10 The treasurer shall, before taking office, give to the state
11 a bond, with surety, conditioned for the faithful perform-
12 ance of the duties of said office, in the penal sum of not
13 less than five hundred dollars; and also keep an account
14 of all moneys received and expended as aforesaid, and shall
15 render a detailed statement thereof to the state treasurer
16 on or before annual meeting of board. The board shall
17 also submit to the governor, on or before the first day of
18 January in each year, a general statement of the work of
19 the board for the year preceding, including therein a state-
20 ment of the number of applicants received during the year,
21 the number approved, and the number rejected.