

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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SENATE

NO. 148

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*In Senate, Feb. 9, 1917.*

*Referred to Committee on Judiciary and five hundred copies ordered printed. Sent down for concurrence.*

*W. E. LAWRY, Secretary.*

*Presented by Mr. Holt of Cumberland.*

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STATE OF MAINE

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

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AN ACT to amend sections eighteen to twenty-three inclusive, of chapter eighteen, and section fifty-three of chapter one hundred seventeen, of the Revised Statutes, all relating to the Board of Registration of Nurses.

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

Section 1. Section eighteen of chapter eighteen of the  
2 Revised Statutes is hereby amended by striking out all of  
3 said section and inserting in place thereof the following:

‘Sect. 18. The governor, with the advice and consent of  
2 the council shall appoint a Board of Registration of Nurses,  
3 consisting of five nurses, all of whom shall be residents of

4 the state and engaged in professional work. They shall  
5 have been graduated each from a different training school;  
6 shall have had at least five years' experience from date of  
7 graduation in professional nursing of the sick, and at least  
8 two years' experience in teaching nurses. They shall be  
9 registered under the provisions of sections twenty and twen-  
10 ty-one of this chapter and with the exception of those who  
11 registered under said section twenty-one shall have the same  
12 qualifications as are required for registration under section  
13 twenty.

'Upon the expiration of the term of office of any member  
2 of said board, the governor shall appoint a successor who  
3 shall hold office for three years. The said appointment shall  
4 be made from a list of six eligible candidates, selected at a  
5 meeting of the Maine State Nurses' Association and sub-  
6 mitted to the governor not less than thirty days before the  
7 time of appointment.

Any vacancy occurring on said board shall be filled for  
2 the unexpired term by appointment to be made by the gov-  
3 ernor from like nominations to be furnished by the said  
4 association. If said nominations in either case are not sub-  
5 mitted within thirty days after the vacancy occurs the gov-  
6 ernor may appoint to fill such vacancy such person, qualified  
7 as aforesaid, as to him seems best.

Any member of said board may be removed from office  
2 for cause by the governor with the advice and consent of  
3 the council.

On request of said board the superintendent of public  
2 buildings shall provide a suitable room in the State House  
3 for its meetings.'

Sect. 2. Section nineteen of said chapter eighteen is here-  
2 by amended by inserting after the first sentence in said sec-  
3 tion the words, 'It shall also elect one of its members as  
4 inspector of training schools for nurses.' Also by striking  
5 out the words, "special meetings shall be called upon request  
6 of any two members" in the seventh and eighth lines of  
7 said section and inserting in place thereof the words, 'special  
8 meetings shall be called by the secretary upon request of  
9 any two members,' so that said section as amended shall  
10 read as follows:

'The board shall, at each annual meeting, elect from its  
2 number a president, and a secretary who shall also be treas-  
3 urer. It shall elect one of its members as inspector of  
4 training schools for nurses. The board may adopt a seal  
5 and pin, which shall be placed in the care of the secretary,  
6 and may adopt such by-laws, rules and regulations for the  
7 transaction of the business of the board and the govern-  
8 ment and management of its affairs, not inconsistent with  
9 the laws of this state and of the United States, as it may  
10 deem expedient. Three members of said board shall con-  
11 stitute a quorum; special meetings shall be called by the  
12 secretary upon request of any two members. The secre-  
13 tary shall keep a record of all meetings of the board, in-  
14 cluding a register of the names of all nurses duly registered

15 under sections twenty and twenty-one, which shall be open  
16 to the public at all reasonable times; he shall furnish a cer-  
17 tificate of registration to each of such nurses, which may be  
18 renewed at the expiration of five years, upon payment of  
19 one dollar to the secretary of the board; the applicant for  
20 renewal of a certificate shall give at least three months'  
21 notice, by registered letter, of the expiration of said cer-  
22 tificate, and shall submit an affidavit showing his or her  
23 identity. The board shall submit to the governor on or  
24 before the first day of January in each year, a general state-  
25 ment of the work of the board for the year preceding, in-  
26 cluding therein a statement of the number of applicants  
27 received during the year, the number approved, and the  
28 number rejected.'

Sect. 3. Section twenty of said chapter eighteen is hereby  
2 amended by striking out the whole of said section and in-  
3 serting in place thereof the following:

'At each annual meeting and at such special meetings as  
2 said board may deem necessary to hold for that purpose,  
3 the board shall examine all applicants for registration, to  
4 determine their qualifications for the efficient nursing of the  
5 sick, and shall decide upon the qualifications of every such  
6 applicant and give notice of their decision within three  
7 months from the date of such examination. Notice of each  
8 meeting, whether annual or special, shall be given by pub-  
9 lication at least one month previous to each meeting in such  
10 newspapers and nursing journals as the board may deter-

11 mine. Application for registration shall be made upon  
12 blanks furnished by the board and shall be signed and sworn  
13 to by applicant. Any person twenty-one years of age or  
14 over and of good moral character who shall show to the  
15 satisfaction of the board that he or she has had at least two  
16 years' high school education or its equivalent and has taken  
17 a full course of not less than two years in, and graduated  
18 and received a diploma from a training school for nurses  
19 connected with a public or private hospital in the state, pre-  
20 sided over by a graduate nurse registered in accordance with  
21 this act and in which is given a general course of instruc-  
22 tion of not less than two years in theory and practice of  
23 medical, surgical and obstetrical nursing in the wards, or  
24 in case of male nurses, of genito-urinary work instead of  
25 obstetrics, or has obtained such experience by not less than  
26 six months' affiliation or post-graduate work, or is a resi-  
27 dent of Maine, who has been graduated and holds a diploma  
28 from a training school for nurses in another state, having  
29 the same qualifications as herein described, shall be eligible  
30 for such examination upon the payment of a fee of five  
31 dollars, to be deposited upon the filing of the application  
32 for examination.

The examination to be given such applicant shall be oral  
2 and written and of such a character as to determine the  
3 fitness of the applicant to practice professional nursing, and  
4 shall include the subjects of practical nursing, anatomy,  
5 physiology, bacteriology, materia medica, medical, surgical

6 and obstetrical nursing, or in case of male nurses, genito-  
7 urinary, instead of obstetrical nursing, dietetics, pediatrics,  
8 hygiene and any other subjects deemed by the board neces-  
9 sary to maintain proper standards for the profession. Any  
10 applicant passing said examination to the satisfaction of  
11 the board, shall receive a certificate of registration within  
12 three months of said examination.

The member acting as inspector of training schools shall  
2 inspect all schools for nurses in the state and shall report  
3 to the board such schools as shall provide courses of in-  
4 struction both practical and theoretical in the subjects men-  
5 tioned in this act, and such schools shall fulfill the qualifi-  
6 cations herein described.'

Sect. 4. Section twenty-one of said chapter eighteen is  
2 hereby amended by adding after the words, "registration  
3 without examination," in the tenth line thereof, the words,  
4 within one year of graduation,' so that said section as  
5 amended shall read as follows:

'Any resident of the state twenty-one years of age or over,  
2 and of good moral character, applying for registration with-  
3 in two years from the third day of July in the year nine-  
4 teen hundred and fifteen, who shall, by affidavit or other-  
5 wise, show to the satisfaction of the board that he or she  
6 is a graduate of a training school for nurses, which gives  
7 at least a two years' course in a public or private hospital,  
8 where a general course of instruction is given, or that he  
9 or she was, on said third day of July, a student in such a

10 training school for nurses, and afterwards was graduated  
11 therefrom, shall be eligible for registration without exam-  
12 ination, within one year of graduation, upon the payment  
13 of a fee of five dollars. The board may register in like  
14 manner without examination, upon payment of a fee of  
15 like amount, any person who has been registered as a pro-  
16 fessional nurse in another state under laws, which in the  
17 opinion of the board, maintain a standard substantially  
18 similar to that maintained in this state, and which extends  
19 a similar privilege to nurses registered in this state.'

Sect. 5. Section twenty-two of said chapter eighteen is  
2 hereby amended by striking out the whole of said section  
3 and inserting in place thereof the following:

'Said board, by a majority vote of all of its members, may  
2 cancel or suspend the registration of any person as a nurse  
3 who may be found guilty of neglect of duty or inefficiency,  
4 or of any act derogatory to the standing and morals of  
5 professional nursing, but before any certificate of registra-  
6 tion shall be so revoked, the holder thereof shall be entitled  
7 to thirty days' notice of the charges against him or her,  
8 and to a full and fair hearing thereon.'

Sect. 6. Section twenty-three of said chapter eighteen is  
2 hereby amended by inserting after the words, "fine of not  
3 more than one hundred dollars," in the ninth and tenth  
4 lines, the words 'and shall have his or her certificate re-  
5 voked,' so that said section as amended shall read as fol-  
6 lows:

'No person shall practice professional nursing in this state  
2 as a registered nurse without having a certificate of regis-  
3 tration. A nurse who has received such certificate and pin  
4 shall be styled and known as a "Registered Nurse," and  
5 no other person shall assume such title, use the pin, the  
6 abbreviation "R. N." or any other words, letters or figures  
7 to indicate that the person using the same is a registered  
8 nurse. Whoever violates any provision of the five preced-  
9 ing sections, or wilfully makes a false representation to  
10 said board in applying for a certificate of registration, shall  
11 be punished by fine of not more than one hundred dollars,  
12 and shall have his or her certificate revoked; provided, that  
13 nothing in this section or in the five preceding sections shall  
14 apply to the acts of any person nursing the sick, who does  
15 not represent himself or herself to be a registered nurse.  
16 The board shall cause to be presented to the proper prose-  
17 cuting officer evidence of any violation of this section or  
18 of the five preceding sections, and may incur any necessary  
19 expenses in the performance of this duty, which expenses  
20 shall be paid out of the receipts of said board.'

Sect. 7. Section fifty-three of chapter one hundred seven-  
2 teen of the Revised Statutes is hereby amended by adding  
3 at the end thereof the words, 'The inspector of training  
4 schools for nurses shall also receive four dollars a day while  
5 actually engaged in his or her duties as such,' so that said  
6 section as amended shall read as follows:

'The members of the board of registration of nurses shall

2 receive their actual necessary expenses incurred in the dis-  
3 charge of their official duties, and the secretary shall re-  
4 ceive a salary to be fixed by the board, not exceeding two  
5 hundred and fifty dollars a year. The other members of  
6 the board shall each receive four dollars a day while actu-  
7 ally engaged in attendance upon meetings of said board.  
8 The inspector of training schools for nurses shall also re-  
9 ceive four dollars a day while actually engaged in his or  
10 her duties as such.'