

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

S. P. No. 202

S. D. No. 78

In Senate, February 13, 1925.

Referred to Committee on Public Health and 500 copies ordered printed. Sent down for concurrence.

ROYDEN V. BROWN, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Maher of Kennebec.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE
HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIVE

AN ACT to Amend Certain Sections of Chapter Eighteen of
the Revised Statutes of Maine and Amendments Thereto
Relating to the Registration of Nurses.

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

Section 1. Section nineteen of chapter eighteen of the
2 revised statutes of Maine as amended by chapter one hun-
3 dred forty-eight of the public laws of nineteen hundred
4 seventeen and further amended by chapter one hundred two
5 of the public laws of nineteen hundred twenty-three, is
6 hereby amended by striking out all of said section nineteen
7 and inserting in place thereof, the following:

'Sect. 19. The board shall, at each annual meeting, elect

2 from its number a president, and a secretary who shall also
3 be treasurer. It shall elect one of its members as inspector
4 of training schools for nurses. The board may adopt a
5 seal and pin, which shall be placed in the care of the sec-
6 retary, and may adopt such by-laws, rules and regulations
7 for the transaction of the business of the board and the
8 government and management of its affairs, not inconsistent
9 with the laws of this state and of the United States, as it
10 may deem expedient. Three members of said board shall
11 constitute a quorum; special meetings shall be called by
12 the secretary upon request of any two members. The sec-
13 retary shall keep a record of all meetings of the board,
14 including a register of the names of all nurses duly regis-
15 tered under sections twenty and twenty-one, which shall
16 be open to the public at all reasonable times; he shall fur-
17 nish a certificate of registration to each of such nurses,
18 which shall be valid for a period of one year from April
19 or October of each year and renewable by the nurse at any
20 time after the expiration of each such period, upon pay-
21 ment of fifty cents to secretary of board; the applicant for
22 renewal of a certificate shall be given at least three months'
23 notice by registered letter, of the expiration of said cer-
24 tificate, and shall submit an affidavit showing his or her
25 identity. The board shall submit to the governor on or
26 before the first day of July in each year a general state-
27 ment of the work of the board for the year preceding, in-
28 cluding therein a statement of the number of applications

29 received during the year, the number approved, and the
30 number rejected.'

Sect. 2. Section twenty-three of chapter eighteen of the
2 revised statutes of Maine, as amended by section six of
3 chapter one hundred forty-eight of the public laws of nine-
4 teen hundred and seventeen, is amended by striking out the
5 words "No person shall practice professional nursing in
6 this state as a registered nurse without having a certificate
7 of registration" in the beginning of said section and insert-
8 mg in place thereof the words: 'No person shall practice
9 nursing in this state as a registered nurse without a cer-
10 tificate of registration from the board of registration and
11 examination of nurses of this state,' so that the same shall
12 read as follows:

"No person shall practice nursing in this state as a regis-
2 tered nurse without a certificate of registration from the
3 board of registration and examination of nurses of this state.
4 A nurse who has received such certificate and pin shall be
5 styled and known as a "Registered Nurse," and no other
6 person shall assume such title, use the pin, the abbreviation
7 "R. N." or any other words, letters or figures to indicate
8 that the person using the same is a registered nurse. Who-
9 ever violates any provision of the five preceding sections
10 or wilfully makes a false representation to said board in
11 applying for a certificate of registration, shall be punished
12 by fine of not more than one hundred dollars, and shall
13 have his or her certificate revoked; provided, that nothing

14 in this section or in the five preceding sections shall apply
15 to the acts of any person nursing the sick, who does not
16 represent himself or herself to be a registered nurse. The
17 board shall cause to be presented to the proper prosecuting
18 officer evidence of any violation of this section or of the
19 five preceding sections, and may incur any necessary ex-
20 penses in the performance of this duty, which expenses
21 shall be paid out of the receipts of said board.'

Sect. 3. Chapter eighteen of the revised statutes as amend-
2 ed by section three of chapter one hundred two of the pub-
3 lic laws of nineteen hundred twenty-three is hereby amended
4 by striking out the whole of said section three and insert-
5 ing in place thereof the following:

'Within a year of the passage of this act every nurse em-
2 ployed in any form of public health nursing, not already
3 registered, as provided in section nineteen hereof, shall be-
4 come registered in accordance with the provisions of this
5 act. Before employment as public health nurse, application
6 must be made to, and qualifications meet approval of, a
7 credential committee composed of three registered nurses;
8 one representing the Maine State Board of Examiners for
9 Registration of Nurses; one representing the Public Health
10 Nursing Section of the Maine State Nurses Association,
11 and one the Division of Public Health Nursing of the
12 State Department of Health, the members of said commit-
13 tee to be duly chosen by their several organizations. Said
14 credential committee shall be a subcommittee of Board of
15 Registration.

It is further provided that all public health nurses shall
2 make written reports through the board employing them
3 to the state and local boards or departments of health in
4 such form and at such times as shall be prescribed by the
5 State Department of Health.

Any failure to comply with the requirements of this sec-
2 tion shall render her further employment illegal and shall
3 be punished by fine of not more than one hundred dollars,
4 provided that nothing in this section shall apply to pupil
5 nurses sent out from hospitals under supervision of a regis-
6 tered nurse to care for sick in their homes, which is a part
7 of their hospital training.

Public health nursing within the meaning of this section
2 shall be deemed to include nursing done by any graduate
3 nurse in any form of social work in which the health of the
4 public is concerned and in which her training as a nurse
5 comes into play and is recognized as a valuable part of her
6 equipment.'