

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

House Document

No. 132

H. P. 419 House of Representatives, January 31, 1929.

Referred to Committee on Legal Affairs and 500 copies ordered printed. Sent up for concurrence.

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Jones of Winthrop.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT Relating to the Registration of Nurses.

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 of Maine as amended is hereby amended
3 by striking out the second and third sentences in said sec-
4 tion and inserting in lieu thereof the following: "They shall
5 have been graduated each from a different school of nurs-
6 ing; and shall have had after graduation at least three years
7 experience in nursing and in addition thereto at least two
8 years experience in teaching nurses, the periods of time not
9 to run concurrently. They shall have been registered by

10 the board of registration of nurses of this state and shall
11 be citizens of the United States,' so that said section shall
12 read as follows:

'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
4 of the state and engaged in professional work. They shall
5 have been graduated each from a different school of nurs-
6 ing; and shall have had after graduation at least three
7 years experience in nursing and in addition thereto at least
8 two years in teaching nurses, the periods of time not to run
9 concurrently. They shall have been registered by the board
10 of registration of nurses of this state and shall be citizens
11 of the United States. Nothing herein contained shall be
12 construed as in any way affecting the term of office of any
13 of the present members of the board. Upon the expiration
14 of the term of office of any member of said board, the gov-
15 ernor shall appoint a successor who shall hold office for
16 three years. The said appointment shall be made from a
17 list of six eligible candidates selected at a meeting of the
18 executive committee of the Maine State Nurses' Associa-
19 tion and submitted to the governor not less than thirty days
20 before the time of appointment. Any vacancy occurring
21 on said board shall be filled for the unexpired term by ap-
22 pointment to be made by the governor from like nomination
23 to be furnished by the said association. If said nomination
24 in either case are not submitted within thirty days after the

25 vacancy occurs the governor may appoint to fill such va-
26 cancy such person, qualified as aforesaid, as to him seems
27 best. Any member of said board may be removed from
28 office for cause by the governor with the advice and con-
29 sent of the council. On request of said board the superin-
30 tendent of public buildings shall provide a suitable room
31 in the State House for its meeting.'

Sect. 2. Section nineteen of said chapter eighteen of the
2 revised statutes of Maine is hereby amended by striking out
3 all of said section and inserting in the place thereof the fol-
4 lowing section:

'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 schools of nursing who shall annually or oftener inspect
5 all schools of nursing in the state and make report thereof
6 to the board. The board may adopt a seal and pin, which
7 shall be placed in the care of the secretary, and may adopt
8 such by-laws, rules and regulations for the transaction of
9 the business of the board and the government and manage-
10 ment of its affairs, not inconsistent with the laws of this
11 state and of the United States, as it may deem expedient.
12 Three members of said board shall constitute a quorum;
13 special meetings shall be called by the secretary upon re-
14 quest of any two members. The secretary shall keep a
15 record of all meetings of the board, including a register of
16 the name of all nurses duly registered under sections twenty

17 and twenty-one, which shall be open to the public at all
18 times; she shall furnish a certificate of registration to each
19 of such nurses, said certificate to be in force from the date
20 of issue thereof until one year from and after the first day
21 of the following January, and may be renewed annually
22 thereafter upon the payment of one dollar to the secretary
23 of the board. On or before the first day of November of
24 each year the secretary of the board shall mail to every
25 nurse registered in the state of Maine under the provision
26 of this chapter, a notice stating the date of expiration of
27 said certificate, said notice to be addressed in accordance
28 with the post office address given at the last previous regis-
29 tration. Any nurse failing to renew registration on or be-
30 fore December 31st, of any year shall by such failure (and
31 without any act on the part of the board to be performed)
32 forfeit the right to practice as a registered nurse. The
33 board may, for reason satisfactory to it, renew registra-
34 tions after said December 31st, provided a fee of one dol-
35 lar shall have been paid for each year during which said
36 nurse has not been registered.

The board shall annually make a report to the governor
2 and council showing its receipts and disbursements in de-
3 tail, the names of persons to whom certificates had been is-
4 sued, and the names of persons whose certificates have been
5 revoked with the reason therefor, during each fiscal year
6 ending on the thirtieth day of June.'

Sect. 3. Section twenty of chapter eighteen of the re-

2 vised statutes of Maine, as amended is hereby amended by
3 striking out all of said section after the word "applicant"
4 in the twelfth line and substituting therefor the following:
5 'The board shall admit to examination for registration any
6 applicant who shall pay a fee of ten dollars and submit
7 satisfactory evidence that he or she:

(a) Is more than twenty-one years of age and of good
2 moral character;

(b) Has had at least two years high school education
2 or its equivalent;

(c) Has taken a full course of not less than two years in
2 the same school of nursing from which he or she has
3 graduated and received a diploma, said school of nursing
4 to be one approved by the board of registration, and presid-
5 ed over by a nurse registered by the board of registration
6 of nurses of this state.

The examination to be given shall be such as will deter-
2 mine the fitness of the applicant to practice professional
3 nursing, and shall include the subjects of practical nursing,
4 anatomy, physiology, bacteriology, materia medica, dietetics,
5 pediatrics, hygiene, medical, surgical and obstetrical nurs-
6 ing, or in case of male nurses genito-urinary, and any other
7 subjects deemed by the board necessary to maintain proper
8 standards. Any applicant passing said examination, to the
9 satisfaction of the board, shall receive a certificate of regis-
10 tration within three months of said examination. The board

11 may register, without examination, upon the payment of a
12 fee of ten dollars, any person who has been registered by
13 examination as a professional nurse in another state under
14 laws which, in the opinion of the board, maintain a standard
15 not lower than that maintained in this state.' So that said
16 section as amended shall read as follows :

'Sect. 20. At each annual meeting and at such special
2 meetings as said board may deem necessary to hold for
3 that purpose, the board shall examine all applicants for
4 registration to determine their qualifications for the efficient
5 nursing of the sick, and shall decide upon the qualifications
6 of every such applicant and give notice of their decision
7 within three months from the date of such examination.
8 Notice of each meeting whether annual or special, shall be
9 given by publication at least one month previous to each
10 meeting in such newspaper and nursing journals as the
11 board may determine. Application for registration shall be
12 made upon blanks furnished by the board and shall be signed
13 and sworn to by applicant.

The board shall admit to examination for registration any
2 applicant who shall pay a fee of ten dollars and submit
3 satisfactory evidence that he or she :

(a) Is more than twenty-one years of age and of good
2 moral character ;

(b) Has had at least two years high school education
2 or its equivalent ;

(c) Has taken a full course of not less than two years in

2 the same school of nursing from which he or she has
3 graduated and received a diploma, said school of nursing
4 to be one approved by the board of registration, and pre-
5 sided over by a nurse registered in accordance with the
6 requirements of this act.

The examination to be given shall be such as will deter-
2 mine the fitness of the applicant to practice professional
3 nursing, and shall include the subjects of practical nurs-
4 ing, anatomy, physiology, bacteriology, materia medica,
5 dietetics, pediatrics, hygiene, medical, surgical, and obstetri-
6 cal nursing, or in case of male nurses genito-urinary, and
7 any other subjects deemed by the board necessary to main-
8 tain proper standards. Any applicant passing said exami-
9 nations, to the satisfaction of the board, shall receive a
10 certificate of registration within three months of said ex-
11 amination.

The board may register, without examination, upon pay-
2 ment of a fee of ten dollars, any person who has been
3 registered by examination as a professional nurse in another
4 state under laws which, in the opinion of the board, main-
5 tain a standard not lower than that maintained in this state.'

Sect. 4. Section twenty-one of chapter eighteen of the
2 revised statutes of Maine as amended is hereby amended
3 by striking out said section and substituting therefor the
4 following:

'Sect. 21. Said board, by a majority vote of all its mem-
2 bers, may cancel or suspend the registration of any person

3 as a nurse who may be found guilty of neglect of duty, or
4 of inefficiency, or of any act derogatory to the standing and
5 morals of professional nursing, but before any certificate
6 of registration shall be revoked, the holder thereof shall be
7 entitled to thirty days' notice of the charges against him or
8 her, and to a full and fair hearing thereon.'

Sect. 5. Section twenty-two of chapter eighteen of the
2 revised statutes of Maine as amended is hereby amended
3 by striking out said section and substituting therefor the
4 following:

'Sect. 22. A credential committee, which shall be a sub-
2 committee of the board of registration of nurses, shall be
3 appointed annually to act upon the applications and quali-
4 fications of nurses employed in public health work. This
5 committee shall be composed of three registered nurses—
6 one from the board of registration of nurses of Maine, one
7 from the public health section of the Maine state nurses'
8 association, and one from the division of public health
9 nursing of the state department of health. These members
10 shall be appointed by their respective organizations.

No graduate nurse shall be employed in any form of pub-
2 lic health nursing unless registered by the board of registra-
3 tion of nurses of this state, and unless her qualifications for
4 such work shall have been determined and approved by said
5 credential committee.

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
4 the public is concerned.'

Sect. 6. Section twenty-three of chapter eighteen of the
2 revised statutes of Maine as amended is hereby amended
3 by striking out said section and substituting therefor the
4 following:

'Sect. 23. No person shall practice nursing in this state
2 as a registered nurse without having a certificate of regis-
3 tration from the board of registration of nurses of this state.
4 No nurse shall continue to practice as a registered nurse
5 without renewing his or her certificate or after his or her
6 certificate shall have been revoked. All registrations which
7 are now in effect shall continue for the terms for which
8 they have been granted. A nurse who has received such
9 certificate and pin shall be styled and known as a "Regis-
10 tered Nurse," and no other person shall assume such title,
11 use the pin, the abbreviation "R. N." or any other words,
12 letters or figures to indicate that the person using the same
13 is a registered nurse. Whoever violates any provision of
14 this section or any provision of the six preceding sections,
15 or wilfully makes a false representation to said board in
16 applying for a certificate of registration, shall be punished
17 by fine of not more than one hundred dollars, and shall
18 have his or her certificate revoked; provided, that nothing
19 in this section or in six preceding sections shall apply to
20 the acts of any person nursing the sick, who does not
21 represent himself or herself to be a registered nurse. The

22 board shall cause to be presented to the proper prosecuting
23 officer evidence of any violation of this section or of the
24 six preceding sections, and may incur any necessary ex-
25 penses in the performances of this duty, which expenses
26 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 of Maine as amended is hereby
3 amended by striking out said section and substituting there-
4 for the following:

'Sect. 53. The members of the board of registration of
2 nurses shall receive their actual necessary expenses incurred
3 in the discharge of their official duties, and the secretary
4 shall receive a salary to be fixed by the board, not exceed-
5 ing three hundred dollars a year. The other members of
6 the board shall each receive five dollars a day while actually
7 engaged in attendance upon meetings of said board. The
8 inspector of nursing schools shall also receive five dollars
9 a day while actually engaged in his or her duties as such
10 inspector.'

Sect. 8. Section three of chapter one hundred two of the
2 public laws of one thousand nine hundred and twenty-three
3 is hereby repealed.

Sect. 9. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent with this
2 act are hereby repealed.