

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NEW DRAFT

EIGHTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

House Document

No. 614

H. P. 1512 House of Representatives, March 1, 1929.

Reported by Mr. Burkett from Committee on Legal Affairs
and laid on table to be printed under joint rules.

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN, Clerk.

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
7 years experience in nursing and in addition thereto at least
8 two years experience in teaching nurses, the periods of
9 time not to run concurrently. They shall have been regis-
10 tered by the board of registration of nurses of this state

11 and shall be citizens of the United States,' so that said
12 section shall 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 of
4 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 years
7 experience in nursing and in addition thereto at least two
8 years experience in teaching nurses, the periods of time
9 not to run concurrently. They shall have been registered
10 by the board of registration of nurses of this state and
11 shall be citizens of the United States. Nothing herein con-
12 tained shall be construed as in any way affecting the term
13 of office of any of the present members of the board. Upon
14 the expiration of the term of office of any member of said
15 board, the governor shall appoint a successor who shall
16 hold office for three years. The said appointment shall be
17 made from a list of six eligible candidates selected at a
18 meeting of the executive committee of the Maine state
19 nurses' association and submitted to the governor not less
20 than thirty days before the time of appointment. Any va-
21 cancy occurring on said board shall be filled for the un-
22 expired term by appointment to be made by the governor
23 from like nominations to be furnished by the said asso-
24 ciation. If said nominations in either case are not submit-
25 ted within thirty days after the vacancy occurs the gov-

26 ernor may appoint to fill such vacancy such person, quali-
27 fied as aforesaid, as to him seems best. Any member of
28 said board may be removed from office for cause by the
29 governor with the advice and consent of the council. On
30 request of said board the superintendent of public build-
31 ings shall provide a suitable room in the state house for
32 its meeting.'

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

'Sect. 19. The board shall, at each annual meeting, elect
2 from its number a president, and a secretary who shall
3 also be treasurer. It shall elect one of its members as in-
4 spector of schools of nursing who shall annually or oftener
5 inspect all schools of nursing in the state and make report
6 thereof to the board. The board may adopt a seal and
7 pin, which shall be placed in the care of the secretary,
8 and may adopt such by-laws, rules and regulations for the
9 transaction of the business of the board and the govern-
10 ment and management of its affairs, not inconsistent with
11 the laws of this state and of the United States, as it may
12 deem expedient. Three members of said board shall con-
13 stitute a quorum; special meetings shall be called by the
14 secretary upon request of any two members. The secre-
15 tary shall keep a record of all meetings of the board, in-
16 cluding a register of the names of all nurses duly regis-

17 tered under section twenty, which shall be open to the pub-
18 lic at all times; she shall furnish a certificate of registra-
19 tion to each of such nurses, said certificate to be in force
20 from the date of issue thereof until one year from and
21 after the first day of the following January, and may be
22 renewed annually thereafter upon the payment of one dol-
23 lar to the secretary of the board. On or before the first
24 day of November of each year the secretary of the board
25 shall mail to every nurse registered in the state of Maine
26 under the provision of this chapter, a notice stating the
27 date of expiration of said certificate, said notice to be ad-
28 dressed in accordance with the post office address given
29 at the last previous registration. Any nurse failing to re-
30 new registration on or before December thirty-first of any
31 year shall by such failure (and without any act on the part
32 of the board to be performed) forfeit the right to practice
33 as a registered nurse. The board may, for reason satis-
34 factory to it, renew registrations after said December thirty-
35 first, provided a fee of one dollar shall have been paid for
36 each year during which said 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
4 issued, and the names of persons whose certificates have
5 been revoked with the reason therefor, during each fiscal
6 year 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
2 in 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 by the board of registra-
6 tion 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 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 nation, to the satisfaction of the board, shall receive a certi-
10 ficate of registration within three months of said examina-
11 tion. The board may register, without examination, upon

12 the payment of a fee of ten dollars, any person who has
13 been registered by examination as a professional nurse in
14 another state under laws which, in the opinion of the board,
15 maintain a standard not lower than that maintained in this
16 state.' So that said section as amended shall read as fol-
17 lows:

'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
12 be made upon blanks furnished by the board and shall be
13 signed 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

2 in 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 nursing,
4 anatomy, physiology, bacteriology, materia medica, diete-
5 tics, pediatrics, hygiene, medical, surgical, and obstetrical
6 nursing, or in case of male nurses, genito-urinary, and any
7 other subjects deemed by the board necessary to maintain
8 proper standards. Any applicant passing said examina-
9 tions, to the satisfaction of the board, shall receive a certi-
10 ficate of registration within three months of said examina-
11 tion.

The board may register, without examination, upon pay-
2 ment of a fee of ten dollars, any person who has been regis-
3 tered 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,
4 or of inefficiency, or of any act derogatory to the stand-
5 ing and morals of professional nursing, but before any
6 certificate of registration shall be revoked, the holder there-
7 of shall be entitled to thirty days' notice of the charges
8 against him or 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 qualifi-
4 cations 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 mem-
10 bers shall be appointed by their respective organizations.

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

cutting officer evidence of any violation of this section or
of the six preceding sections, and may incur any necessary
expenses in the performances of this duty, which expenses
shall be paid out of the receipts of said board.'

Sect. 7. Section fifty-three of chapter one hundred and
seventeen of the revised statutes of Maine as amended is
hereby amended by striking out said section and substitut-
ing therefor the following:

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

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

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