

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2015

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SENATE BILL 240

Short Title: Define Scope of Practice of CRNAs. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators J. Davis (Primary Sponsor); D. Davis and Pate.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

March 12, 2015

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT DEFINING THE PRACTICE OF NURSING BY CERTIFIED REGISTERED  
3 NURSE ANESTHETISTS UNDER THE NURSING PRACTICE ACT.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 90-18(c) is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

6 "(14a) The practice of nursing by a certified registered nurse anesthetist as defined  
7 in G.S. 90-171.20."

8 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 90-171.20 reads as rewritten:

9 "**§ 90-171.20. Definitions.**

10 As used in this Article, unless the context requires otherwise:

11 (1) "~~Board~~" means the Board. – The North Carolina Board of Nursing.

12 (2) "~~Health care provider~~" means any Health care provider. – Any licensed  
13 health care professional and any agent or employee of any health care  
14 institution, health care insurer, health care professional school, or a member  
15 of any allied health profession. For purposes of this Article, a person  
16 enrolled in a program that prepares the person to be a licensed health care  
17 professional or an allied health professional shall be deemed a health care  
18 provider.

19 (3) "~~License~~" means a License. – A permit issued by the Board to practice  
20 nursing as a registered nurse or as a licensed practical nurse, including a  
21 renewal thereof.

22 (3a) Nurse anesthesia activities. – As defined in 21 NCAC 36.0226.

23 (4) "~~Nursing~~" is a Nursing. – A dynamic discipline which includes the assessing,  
24 caring, counseling, teaching, referring and implementing of prescribed  
25 treatment in the maintenance of health, prevention and management of  
26 illness, injury, disability or the achievement of a dignified death. It is  
27 ministering to; assisting; and sustained, vigilant, and continuous care of  
28 those acutely or chronically ill; supervising patients during convalescence  
29 and rehabilitation; the supportive and restorative care given to maintain the  
30 optimum health level of individuals, groups, and communities; the  
31 supervision, teaching, and evaluation of those who perform or are preparing  
32 to perform these functions; and the administration of nursing programs and  
33 nursing services. For purposes of this Article, the administration of required  
34 lethal substances or any assistance whatsoever rendered with an execution  
35 under Article 19 of Chapter 15 of the General Statutes does not constitute  
36 nursing.



- 1 (5) ~~"Nursing program" means any~~Nursing program. – Any educational program  
2 in North Carolina offering to prepare persons to meet the educational  
3 requirements for licensure under this Article.
- 4 (6) ~~"Person" means an~~Person. – An individual, corporation, partnership,  
5 association, unit of government, or other legal entity.
- 6 (6a) The "practice of nursing by a certified registered nurse anesthetist." –  
7 Consists of the following components:
- 8 a. Performing nurse anesthesia activities in collaboration with a  
9 physician, dentist, podiatrist, or other lawfully qualified health care  
10 provider, with each provider contributing his or her respective area of  
11 expertise consistent with the lawful scope of practice and according  
12 to established policies, procedures, practices, and channels of  
13 communication that (i) lend support to nurse anesthesia activities and  
14 (ii) define the roles and responsibilities of the certified registered  
15 nurse anesthetist within the practice setting.
- 16 b. Maintaining individual accountability for the outcome of individual  
17 actions.
- 18 (7) The "practice of nursing by a registered ~~nurse" consists~~nurse." – Consists of  
19 the following 10 components:
- 20 a. Assessing the patient's physical and mental health, including the  
21 patient's reaction to illnesses and treatment regimens.
- 22 b. Recording and reporting the results of the nursing assessment.
- 23 c. Planning, initiating, delivering, and evaluating appropriate nursing  
24 acts.
- 25 d. Teaching, assigning, delegating to or supervising other personnel in  
26 implementing the treatment regimen.
- 27 e. Collaborating with other health care providers in determining the  
28 appropriate health care for a patient but, subject to the provisions of  
29 G.S. 90-18.2, not prescribing a medical treatment regimen or making  
30 a medical diagnosis, except under supervision of a licensed  
31 physician.
- 32 f. Implementing the treatment and pharmaceutical regimen prescribed  
33 by any person authorized by State law to prescribe the regimen.
- 34 g. Providing teaching and counseling about the patient's health.
- 35 h. Reporting and recording the plan for care, nursing care given, and the  
36 patient's response to that care.
- 37 i. Supervising, teaching, and evaluating those who perform or are  
38 preparing to perform nursing functions and administering nursing  
39 programs and nursing services.
- 40 j. Providing for the maintenance of safe and effective nursing care,  
41 whether rendered directly or indirectly.
- 42 (8) The "practice of nursing by a licensed practical ~~nurse" consists~~nurse." –  
43 Consists of the following seven components:
- 44 a. Participating in the assessment of the patient's physical and mental  
45 health, including the patient's reaction to illnesses and treatment  
46 regimens.
- 47 b. Recording and reporting the results of the nursing assessment.
- 48 c. Participating in implementing the health care plan developed by the  
49 registered nurse and/or prescribed by any person authorized by State  
50 law to prescribe such a plan, by performing tasks assigned or  
51 delegated by and performed under the supervision or under orders or

- 1 directions of a registered nurse, physician licensed to practice  
2 medicine, dentist, or other person authorized by State law to provide  
3 the supervision.  
4 c1. Assigning or delegating nursing interventions to other qualified  
5 personnel under the supervision of the registered nurse.  
6 d. Participating in the teaching and counseling of patients as assigned  
7 by a registered nurse, physician, or other qualified professional  
8 licensed to practice in North Carolina.  
9 e. Reporting and recording the nursing care rendered and the patient's  
10 response to that care.  
11 f. Maintaining safe and effective nursing care, whether rendered  
12 directly or indirectly."

13 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.