

STATE OF NEW YORK

5435

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 4, 2021

Introduced by Sen. COONEY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to certified registered nurse anesthetists

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new article 139-A
2 to read as follows:

ARTICLE 139-A

CERTIFIED REGISTERED NURSE ANESTHETIST

Section 6912. Introduction.

6913. Definitions.

6914. Definition of practice of certified nurse anesthetist.

6915. Practice of certified registered nurse anesthetist and use of the title "certified registered nurse anesthetist" or "nurse anesthetist."

6916. State board for nursing.

6917. Requirements for a license as a certified registered nurse anesthetist.

6918. Limited permits.

6919. Exempt persons.

6920. Special provisions.

17 § 6912. Introduction. This article applies to the profession of certi-
18 fied registered nurse anesthetists. The general provisions for all
19 professions contained in article one hundred thirty of this title shall
20 apply to this article.

21 § 6913. Definitions. As used in this article: 1. "Administration of
22 anesthesia services." (a) In the hospital or ambulatory surgical
23 center, "administration of anesthesia services" means anesthesia
24 services shall be directed by a physician who has responsibility for the
25 clinical aspects of organization and delivery of all anesthesia services

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 provided by the hospital or ambulatory surgical center. That physician
2 or another individual qualified by education and experience shall direct
3 the administrative aspects of the service, and shall be responsible, in
4 conjunction with the medical staff, for recommending to the governing
5 body privileges to those persons qualified to administer anesthetics,
6 including the procedures each person is qualified to perform and the
7 levels of required supervision as appropriate.

8 (b) In office based surgery venues, "administration of anesthesia
9 services" means the anesthesia component of the medical or dental proce-
10 dure shall be supervised by an anesthesiologist, physician, dentist or
11 podiatrist qualified to supervise the administration of anesthesia and
12 who is available to immediately diagnose and treat the patient for anes-
13 thesia complications or emergencies, and certified registered nurse
14 anesthetists may be permitted to administer monitored anesthesia care,
15 and/or general anesthesia, regional anesthesia, and/or monitor the
16 patient.

17 2. "General anesthesia" means the administration of a medication by
18 the parenteral or inhalation routes which results in a controlled state
19 of unconsciousness accompanied by a complete loss of protective reflexes
20 including loss of the ability to independently and continuously maintain
21 patient airway and a regular breathing pattern. There is also an
22 inability to respond purposefully to verbal commands and/or tactile
23 stimulation.

24 3. "Local anesthesia" means the introduction of a local anesthetic
25 agent into a localized part of the body by topical application or local
26 infiltration in close proximity to a nerve, which produces a transient
27 and reversible loss of sensation. All local anesthetics possess both
28 excitatory (seizure) and depressant (loss of consciousness) central
29 nervous system effects in sufficient blood levels and may have profound
30 cardiovascular depressant effects. There may also be interactive
31 effects between local anesthetic agents and sedative medications.

32 4. "Monitored anesthesia care" means (a) A minimally depressed level
33 of consciousness that retains the patient's ability to maintain adequate
34 cardiorespiratory function and the ability to independently and contin-
35 uously maintain an open airway, a regular breathing pattern, protective
36 reflexes, and respond purposefully and rationally to tactile stimulation
37 and verbal command. This does not include unsupplemented oral pre-ope-
38 rative medications or nitrous oxide analgesia; or

39 (b) The administration of medication by the oral, parenteral, or inha-
40 lation routes which results in a controlled state of depressed
41 consciousness accompanied by partial loss of protective reflexes. There
42 may be an inability to independently and continuously maintain an open
43 airway and/or regular breathing pattern with unconscious or deep
44 sedation, and the ability to appropriately and rationally respond to
45 physical stimuli and verbal commands is lost.

46 5. "Monitoring" means the continual clinical observation of a patient
47 and the use of instruments to measure, display, and record the values of
48 certain physiologic variables such as pulse, oxygen saturation, level of
49 consciousness, blood pressure, and respiration.

50 6. "Office-based surgery" means any surgical or other invasive proce-
51 dure, requiring general anesthesia, monitored anesthesia care, and any
52 liposuction procedure, where such surgical or other invasive procedure
53 or liposuction is performed by a licensee in a location other than a
54 hospital, as such term is defined in article twenty-eight of the public
55 health law, excluding minor procedures and procedures requiring minimal
56 sedation.

1 7. "Patient" means an individual who is under the care of a physician,
2 dentist, oral surgeon or podiatrist in a licensed facility or in an
3 office.

4 8. "Peri-anesthetic period" means the period of time commencing upon
5 the pre-operative evaluation of the patient before surgery and ending
6 upon the patient's post-operative discharge from the recovery room.

7 9. "Regional anesthesia" means the administration of local anesthesia
8 agents to interrupt nerve impulses in a major region of the body;
9 including but not limited to in this category are spinal, epidural,
10 caudal, upper or lower extremity plexus block anesthesia, and intrave-
11 nous regional anesthesia.

12 10. "Supplemented local anesthesia" means the use of local anesthesia
13 supplemented with monitored anesthesia care.

14 11. "Unsupplemented local anesthesia" means the use of local anes-
15 thesia without supplementing with monitored anesthesia care.

16 § 6914. Definition of practice of certified registered nurse anes-
17 thetist. 1. In addition to the provisions of practice for registered
18 professional nursing outlined in section sixty-nine hundred two of this
19 title, the practice of a certified registered nurse anesthetist further
20 includes, but is not limited to, administration of anesthesia, which
21 includes general anesthesia, monitored anesthesia care, local anes-
22 thesia, regional anesthesia, spinal, epidural, caudal anesthesia,
23 supplemented local anesthesia, and unsupplemented local anesthesia to a
24 patient during the peri-anesthetic period; performing and documenting a
25 preanesthetic assessment and evaluation of the patient, including
26 requesting consultations and diagnostic studies; selecting, obtaining,
27 ordering, and administering preanesthetic medications and fluids; and
28 obtaining informed consent for anesthesia, developing and implementing
29 an anesthetic plan; initiating the anesthetic technique; monitoring the
30 patient including selecting, applying, and inserting appropriate nonin-
31 vasive and invasive monitoring modalities for continuous evaluation of
32 the patient's physical status; selecting, obtaining, and administering
33 the anesthetics, adjuvant and accessory drugs, and fluids necessary to
34 manage the anesthetic; managing a patient's airway and pulmonary status
35 using current practice modalities; facilitating emergence and recovery
36 from anesthesia by selecting, obtaining, ordering and administering
37 medications, fluids, and ventilatory support; discharging the patient
38 from a postanesthesia care area and providing postanesthesia follow-up
39 evaluation and care; implementing acute and chronic pain management
40 modalities; and responding to emergency situations by providing airway
41 management, administration of emergency fluids and drugs, and using
42 basic or advanced cardiac life support techniques.

43 2. Nurse anesthesia must be provided in collaboration with a licensed
44 physician qualified to determine the need for anesthesia services,
45 provided such services are performed in accordance with a written prac-
46 tice agreement and written practice protocols as set forth in subdivi-
47 sion four of this section or pursuant to collaborative relationships as
48 set forth in subdivision five of this section, whichever is applicable.

49 3. Prescriptions for drugs, devices, and anesthetic agents, anesthesia
50 related agents, and pain management agents may be issued by a certified
51 registered nurse anesthetist during the peri-anesthetic period, in
52 accordance with the written practice agreement and written practice
53 protocols described in subdivision four of this section if applicable.
54 The certified registered nurse anesthetist shall obtain a certificate
55 from the department upon successfully completing a program including an
56 appropriate pharmacology component, or its equivalent, as established by

1 the commissioner's regulations, prior to prescribing under this subdivi-
2 sion. The license issued under this article shall state whether the
3 certified registered nurse anesthetist has successfully completed such a
4 program or equivalent and is authorized to prescribe under this subdivi-
5 sion.

6 4. A certified registered nurse anesthetist licensed under this arti-
7 cle and practicing for thirty-six hundred hours or less shall do so in
8 accordance with a written practice agreement and written practice proto-
9 cols agreed upon by a licensed physician qualified by education and
10 experience to determine the need for anesthesia.

11 (a) The written practice agreement shall include explicit provisions
12 for the resolution of any disagreement between the collaborating physi-
13 cian and the certified registered nurse anesthetist regarding a matter
14 of anesthesia or pain management treatment that is within the scope of
15 practice of both. To the extent the practice agreement does not so
16 provide, then the collaborating physician's treatment shall prevail.

17 (b) Each practice agreement shall provide for patient records review
18 by the collaborating physician in a timely fashion but in no event less
19 often than every three months. The names of the certified registered
20 nurse anesthetist and the collaborating physician shall be clearly post-
21 ed in the practice setting of the certified registered nurse anes-
22 thetist.

23 (c) The practice protocol shall reflect current accepted medical and
24 nursing practice. The protocols shall be filed with the department with-
25 in ninety days of the commencement of the practice and may be updated
26 periodically. The commissioner shall make regulations establishing the
27 procedure for the review of protocols and the disposition of any issues
28 arising from such review.

29 5. A certified registered nurse anesthetist licensed under this arti-
30 cle and practicing for more than thirty-six hundred hours shall have
31 collaborative relationships with one or more licensed physicians quali-
32 fied to determine the need for anesthesia services or a hospital,
33 licensed under article twenty-eight of the public health law, that
34 provides services through licensed physicians qualified to determine the
35 need for anesthesia services and having privileges at such institution.

36 (a) For purposes of this paragraph, "collaborative relationships"
37 shall mean that the certified registered nurse anesthetist shall commu-
38 nicate, whether in person, by telephone or through written (including
39 electronic) means, with a licensed physician qualified to determine the
40 need for anesthesia services or, in the case of a hospital, communicate
41 with a licensed physician qualified to determine the need for anesthesia
42 services and having privileges at such hospital, for the purposes of
43 exchanging information, as needed, in order to provide comprehensive
44 patient care and to make referrals as necessary.

45 (b) As evidence that the certified registered nurse anesthetist main-
46 tains collaborative relationships, the certified registered nurse
47 anesthetist shall complete and maintain a form, created by the depart-
48 ment, to which the certified registered nurse anesthetist shall attest,
49 that describes such collaborative relationships. Such form shall also
50 reflect the certified registered nurse anesthetist's acknowledgement
51 that if reasonable efforts to resolve any dispute that may arise with
52 the collaborating physician or, in the case of a collaboration with a
53 hospital, with a licensed physician qualified to determine the need for
54 anesthesia services and having privileges at such hospital, about a
55 patient's care are not successful, the recommendation of the physician
56 shall prevail. Such form shall be updated as needed and may be subject

1 to review by the department. The certified registered nurse anesthetist
2 shall maintain documentation that supports such collaborative relation-
3 ships.

4 6. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to limit or diminish the
5 practice of the profession of nursing as a registered professional nurse
6 under this article or any other law, rule, regulation or certification,
7 nor to deny any registered professional nurse the right to do any act or
8 engage in any practice authorized by this article or any other law,
9 rule, regulation or certification.

10 § 6915. Practice of certified registered nurse anesthetists and use of
11 the title "certified registered nurse anesthetist" or "nurse anesthe-
12 tist." Only a person licensed or otherwise authorized under this article
13 shall practice certified registered nurse anesthetist or nurse anesthe-
14 tist.

15 § 6916. State board for nursing. The state board for nursing as estab-
16 lished in section six thousand nine hundred four of this title shall be
17 the governing state board for certified registered nurse anesthetists.

18 § 6917. Requirements for a license as a certified registered nurse
19 anesthetist. To qualify for a license as a certified registered nurse
20 anesthetist, an applicant shall fulfill the following requirements:

- 21 1. Application: file an application with the department;
- 22 2. Education: have received a master's degree or higher in a program
23 of nurse anesthesia in accordance with the commissioner's regulations;
- 24 3. Examination: meet the standards to sit for the certifying exam
25 provided by the national board;
- 26 4. Age: be at least 18 years of age;
- 27 5. Character: be of good moral character as determined by the depart-
28 ment;
- 29 6. Fees: pay a fee of fifty dollars to the department for an initial
30 license and a fee of thirty dollars for each triennial registration
31 period; and
- 32 7. Information and documentation: in conjunction with and as a condi-
33 tion of each triennial registration, provide to the department, and the
34 department shall collect, such information and documentation required by
35 the department, in consultation with the department of health, as is
36 necessary to enable the department of health to evaluate access to need-
37 ed services in this state, including, but not limited to, the location
38 and type of setting wherein the certified registered nurse anesthetist
39 practices and other information the department, in consultation with the
40 department of health, deems relevant. The department of health, in
41 consultation with the department, shall make such data available in
42 aggregate, de-identified form on a publicly accessible website. Addi-
43 tionally, in conjunction with each triennial registration, the depart-
44 ment, in consultation with the department of health, shall provide
45 information on registering in the donate life registry for organ and
46 tissue donation, including the website address for such registry.

47 § 6918. Limited permits. 1. A permit to practice as a certified regis-
48 tered nurse anesthetist may be issued by the department upon the filing
49 of an application for a license as a certified registered nurse anesthe-
50 tist and submission of such other information as the department may
51 require to: (i) graduates of schools of nurse anesthesia registered by
52 the department; or (ii) graduates of schools of nursing anesthesia
53 approved in another state, province, or country.

54 2. Such limited permit shall expire one year from the date of issuance
55 or upon notice to the applicant by the department that the application

1 for license has been denied. The limited permit may be renewed, at the
2 discretion of the department, for one additional year.

3 3. A limited permit shall entitle the holder to practice certified
4 registered nurse anesthesia only under the supervision of a certified
5 registered nurse anesthetist currently registered in this state and with
6 the endorsement of the employing agency.

7 4. Fees. The fee for each limited permit shall be thirty-five dollars.

8 5. Graduates of schools of nursing anesthesia registered by the
9 department may be employed to practice nurse anesthesia under super-
10 vision of a certified registered nurse anesthetist currently registered
11 in this state and with the endorsement of the employing agency for nine-
12 ty days immediately following graduation from a program in nurse anes-
13 thetia and pending receipt of a limited permit for which an application
14 has been filed as provided in this section.

15 § 6919. Exempt persons. This article shall not be construed:

16 1. As modifying the scope of practice of certified registered nurse
17 anesthetists pursuant to statute or the rules and regulations of the
18 commissioner of health in a hospital or in a free-standing ambulatory
19 surgery center as defined in article twenty-eight of the public health
20 law;

21 2. As applying to any activity authorized, pursuant to statutes, rule
22 or regulation, to be performed by a registered professional nurse in a
23 hospital as defined in article twenty-eight of the public health law;

24 3. As prohibiting an individual who has been licensed as a nurse prac-
25 titioner in the acute care specialty area from performing the duties of
26 a certified registered nurse anesthetist;

27 4. As prohibiting the furnishing of nursing anesthesia assistance in
28 case of an emergency;

29 5. As prohibiting such performance of nursing anesthesia service by
30 students enrolled in registered schools or programs as may be incidental
31 to their course of study;

32 6. As prohibiting or preventing the practice of nursing anesthesia in
33 this state by any legally qualified nurse or practical nurse of another
34 state, province, or country whose engagement requires him or her to
35 accompany and care for a patient temporarily residing in this state
36 during the period of such engagement provided such person does not
37 represent or hold himself or herself out as a certified registered nurse
38 anesthetist registered to practice in this state;

39 7. As prohibiting or preventing the practice of nursing anesthesia in
40 this state during an emergency or disaster by any legally qualified
41 nurse anesthetist of another state, province, or country who may be
42 recruited by the American National Red Cross or pursuant to authority
43 vested in the state civil defense commission for such emergency or
44 disaster service, provided such person does not represent or hold
45 himself or herself out as a certified registered nurse anesthetist
46 registered to practice in this state;

47 8. As prohibiting or preventing the practice of nursing anesthesia in
48 this state, in obedience to the requirements of the laws of the United
49 States, by any commissioned nurse anesthetist officer in the armed forc-
50 es of the United States or by any nurse anesthetist employed in the
51 United States veterans administration or United States public health
52 service while engaged in the performance of the actual duties prescribed
53 for him or her under the United States statutes, provided such person
54 does not represent or hold himself or herself out as a certified regis-
55 tered nurse anesthetist registered to practice in this state; or

1 9. As prohibiting the care of the sick when done in connection with
2 the practice of the religious tenets of any church.

3 § 6920. Special provisions. A certified registered nurse anesthetist
4 licensed under this article is required to purchase and maintain, or
5 otherwise be covered by, professional liability insurance in an amount
6 not less one million dollars per claim with an aggregate liability for
7 all claims during the year of three million dollars. Professional
8 liability insurance required by this section shall cover all acts within
9 the scope of practice of registered nurse anesthetist.

10 § 2. Section 6903 of the education law, as amended by chapter 323 of
11 the laws of 2006, is amended to read as follows:

12 § 6903. Practice of nursing and use of title "registered professional
13 nurse" or "licensed practical nurse". Only a person licensed or other-
14 wise authorized under this article shall practice nursing and only a
15 person licensed under section sixty-nine hundred five of this article
16 shall use the title "registered professional nurse" and only a person
17 licensed under section sixty-nine hundred six of this article shall use
18 the title "licensed practical nurse". No person shall use the title
19 "nurse" or any other title or abbreviation that would represent to the
20 public that the person is authorized to practice nursing unless the
21 person is licensed or otherwise authorized under this article or article
22 one hundred thirty-nine-A of this title.

23 § 3. Section 6904 of the education law, as amended by chapter 994 of
24 the laws of 1971 and as renumbered by chapter 50 of the laws of 1972, is
25 amended to read as follows:

26 § 6904. State board for nursing. A state board for nursing shall be
27 appointed by the board of regents on recommendation of the commissioner
28 for the purpose of assisting the board of regents and the department on
29 matters of professional licensing and professional conduct in accordance
30 with section sixty-five hundred eight of this title. The board shall be
31 composed of not less than [~~fifteen~~] seventeen members, eleven of whom
32 shall be registered professional nurses, and four of whom shall be
33 licensed practical nurses and two of whom shall be certified registered
34 nurse anesthetists all licensed and practicing in this state for at
35 least five years. An executive secretary to the board shall be
36 appointed by the board of regents on recommendation of the commissioner
37 and shall be a registered professional nurse registered in this state.

38 § 4. This act shall take effect immediately.