

STATE OF NEW YORK

8175

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

May 5, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. BICHOTTE HERMELYN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to authorizing nurses and doctors licensed in Puerto Rico to practice in New York state

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

1 Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as
2 the "Puerto Rico Healthcare Professional Reciprocity Act".

3 § 2. Legislative findings and intent. The legislature finds that the
4 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico maintains rigorous educational and licensing
5 standards for healthcare professionals, comparable to those of New York
6 state. Expanding practice eligibility for nurses and physicians licensed
7 in Puerto Rico will help address critical healthcare workforce shortages
8 and ensure high-quality medical services for New York's residents.

9 § 3. Section 6905 of the education law is amended by adding a new
10 subdivision 9 to read as follows:

11 (9) Puerto Rico: An applicant who holds a current and valid license
12 as a registered professional nurse issued by the Commonwealth of Puerto
13 Rico shall be deemed to have satisfied the educational and examination
14 requirements under this section, provided that the applicant meets all
15 other applicable requirements, including character and fitness, as
16 determined by the department.

17 § 4. Section 6908 of the education law is amended by adding a new
18 subdivision 3 to read as follows:

19 3. This article shall not be construed to prohibit persons licensed as
20 registered professional nurses by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico from
21 practicing in New York state upon registration with the department and
22 verification of licensure in good standing, without the necessity of
23 additional examination.

24 § 5. Section 6524 of the education law is amended by adding a new
25 subdivision 12 to read as follows:

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

LBD11883-01-5

1 (12) An applicant who holds a current and valid license as a physician
2 or surgeon issued by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico shall be deemed to
3 have satisfied the professional education and examination requirements
4 under this section, provided that the applicant meets all other applica-
5 ble requirements, including character, fitness, and completion of a
6 residency program as determined by the department.

7 § 6. Section 6526 of the education law is amended by adding a new
8 subdivision 11 to read as follows:

9 11. Any physician who is licensed and in good standing in Puerto Rico
10 shall be eligible to apply for licensure in New York state without being
11 required to retake national licensing examinations, provided that
12 verification of education, training, and good standing is furnished to
13 the department.

14 § 7. This act shall take effect immediately.