

STATE BOARD OF NURSING

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Average Counts-All Positions: 8.000 Legislative Count: 8.00

PURPOSE:

The State Board of Nursing was established to protect the public through regulation of nursing practice in the State of Maine so as to maintain high professional standards. The primary responsibilities of the Board, by law, are to license, by examination or endorsement, all applicants qualified to practice as registered nurses, licensed practical nurses or as advanced practice registered nurses; to renew the licenses of all qualified registered nurses, practical nurses and advanced practice registered nurses; to investigate complaints of unsafe nursing practice or any violation of laws relating to nursing; and determine, in collaboration with the Attorney General, if the case should be presented for a formal hearing; to adopt rules and regulations governing licensure of nurses and other matters within its jurisdiction; to approve programs of training that prepare certified nursing assistants to perform selected nursing services when such services are delegated by a registered nurse.

Additional responsibilities of the Board are to prescribe curricula and establish standards for educational programs preparing persons for licensure as registered nurses or as licensed practical nurses; to approve nursing educational programs in the State and meet the requirements of law and the standards established by the Board; to survey all such nursing educational programs as deemed necessary to determine that the requirements of the law and Board standards are being maintained; to deny or withdraw approval from such nursing educational programs for failure to meet requirements; and to approve the credentials of registered nurses who have completed an educational program that prepares the registered nurse to function as an advanced practice registered nurse. An advanced practice registered nurse includes the following: certified nurse practitioner, certified nurse-midwife, certified registered nurse anesthetist and certified clinical nurse specialist.

ORGANIZATION:

The State Board of Nursing was originally created as the Board of Examination and Registration of Nurses in 1915 and received its present name in 1959. From 1947 until 1961, the Board's office was located in Lewiston. In 1961, the office was moved to Portland, and in 1973, it was relocated to Augusta.

In 1991, the Board of Nursing was affiliated with the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation. In 1995, an advanced practice registered nurse member was added to the Board of Nursing, which changed the composition of the Board as follows: six registered professional nurses, one licensed practical nurse, and two representatives of the public. All members are appointed by the Governor for terms of four years. The Board annually elects from its membership a chairperson and a secretary. Also, the Board appoints and employs an executive director, assistant executive director, and other qualified persons, not members of the Board.

PROGRAM:

During fiscal year 2015, the Board met in 8 regular sessions for a total of 12 days; the Board met in 11 subcommittee sessions for a total of 10 days; the Board met in 2 adjudicatory hearing sessions for a total of 2 days. In addition, Board members participated in committee meetings; served on committees of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing; and represented the Board at conferences or meetings with individuals or groups on matters pertinent to Board business. A major responsibility of the Board of Nursing is the licensure of practitioners of nursing. The law provides that licensure as a registered nurse or as a licensed practical nurse in this State may be obtained by examination or endorsement of a license legally issued by the licensing authority of another state or country. On July 1, 2001, Maine implemented the Interstate Nurse Licensure Compact which allows for recognition of the registered professional nurse's license and licensed practical (or vocational) nurse's license if the nurse is from another Compact state.

A second major responsibility of the Board of Nursing is approval of all basic nursing programs that prepare persons for licensure in Maine, either as registered professional nurses or as licensed practical nurses. Maine has **15** Board-approved nursing programs: **14** to prepare registered nurses and **1** to prepare practical nurses. The names of these programs follow: Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Programs: University of Southern Maine; St. Joseph's College; Husson University; University of Maine; University of Maine at Fort Kent; University of New England; and Kaplan University. Associate Degree Nursing Programs: **Maine College of Health Professions (formerly CMMC)**; University of Maine at Augusta; Kennebec Valley Community College; Northern Maine Community College; Central Maine Community College; Eastern Maine Community College; and Southern Maine Community College. In addition, the University of Southern Maine has a generic Masters in Nursing Program for Non-Nurses. Practical nursing programs are approved to be offered at the community colleges and currently, **Intercoast Career Institute has approval to offer a practical nursing program through March 31, 2016.**

A third major responsibility of the Board of Nursing is to impose sanctions on licensees who violate the law through the exercise of its legal, investigative and disciplinary program. During fiscal year **2015**, the Board received **273** provider reports or complaints of illegal or unsafe nursing practice. The Board took the following actions in fiscal year **2015**: revocation of license (**4**); suspended license (**5**); accepted voluntary surrender of license (**19**); placed license on probation (**34**); warned, censured, reprimanded or fined (**29**); terminated probation (**4**); took no action/dismissed complaint (**188**); license renewal denied (**2**); fined for unlicensed practice (**137**); denied licensure by endorsement (**0**); denied licensure by examination (**0**); denied reinstatement (**1**); letters of concern issued (**59**). In November, 2005, the Board successfully launched its online licensure renewal program with an average utilization rate of **92%**.

LICENSES:

Nurses licensed by Endorsement during fiscal year **2015**:
Registered Professional Nurses from other states: (**860**)
Licensed Practical Nurses: from other states: (**85**)

Nurses licensed by Examination during fiscal year **2015**:
Registered Professional Nurses (**695**)
Licensed Practical Nurses (**30**)

Nurses licensed by Renewal and Reinstatement during fiscal year **2015**:
Registered Professional Nurses licensed by: Renewal (**10,475**), Reinstatement (**482**)
Licensed Practical Nurses licensed by: Renewal (**1,032**), Reinstatement (**91**)

TOTAL ACTIVE LICENSES:

Registered Professional Nurses: **25,889** (includes **2012** APRN)
Licensed Practical Nurses: **2,406**

PUBLICATIONS:

Law Regulating the Practice of Nursing (available on website)
Rules and Regulations of the Maine State Board of Nursing (available on website)
Prescribed Curriculum for Nursing Assistant Training Programs (\$10.00)
Standardized Medication Course for Certified Nursing Assistants (\$10.00)