

FISCAL NOTE

May 19, 2017

Bill No:	SB 25	Printer's No:	314	Sponsor:	Bartolotta (R)
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COST / (SAVINGS)

Fund (s)	2017-18	2018-19
General Fund – Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs Restricted Account	\$ 605,640	\$ 477,546

SUMMARY: The bill would amend the Professional Nursing Law to provide licenses to certified nurse practitioners (CNP).

ANALYSIS: Under current law, nurse practitioners receive a certification from the commonwealth and must collaborate with a physician. The bill would change the certification to a license by the State Board of Nursing (Board), which is housed in the Department of State's (DOS) Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs. Changing the license would permit the licensee to practice independently in a particular clinical specialty or population focus.

Registered nurses who currently hold board certification as a certified registered nurse practitioner (CRNP) in a particular clinical specialty on the effective date of the bill would automatically be deemed a CNP in that practice area. To receive an initial CNP license, candidates would need to meet the following requirements:

1. Hold a current license in Pennsylvania as a registered nurse (RN)
2. Graduated from an accredited, board-approved master's or post-master's nurse practitioner program
3. Hold a current certification as a CNP from a board-recognized national certification program in the specialty area or population focus for which the applicant seeks licensure by the board

CNP licenses would be renewed on a biennial basis. To maintain the CNP designation, the licensee must maintain a current license as a RN in the commonwealth, keep current certification in the particular clinical specialty or population focus and complete 30 hours of continuing education, 16 of which must be in pharmacology if the licensee is independently prescribing drugs.

The bill provides for an exception to the current requirement that a CRNP work collaboratively with a physician. In order to be eligible for the exception, the CNP must be engaged in the practice of professional nursing for at least three years and have at least 3,600 practice hours. CNP's meeting these requirements may practice as a licensed independent practitioner within the scope of practice of their specialty or population focus. These CNPs may also prescribe medical therapeutic or corrective measures.

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The bill would disband the Drug Review Committee, which currently determines what drugs a CRNP is authorized to prescribe.

The act would take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT: The bill would have a total fiscal impact of \$ 605,640 in operating and personnel costs.

Currently, there are 8,057 CRNP certifications that would need to be converted into CNP licenses. Further, there are currently 11,557 CRNPs with 11,930 prescriptive authority agreements. DOS estimates that it would need to amend 8,461 prescriptive authority authorizations as a result of enactment of the bill.

DOS estimates that they would need to hire five new positions to meet the provisions of the bill.

Position	Number of Hires Needed	Salary	Total Salary Cost
Clerk Typist 3	2	\$ 49,305	\$ 98,610
Education Certification Evaluator	1	\$ 56,192	\$ 56,192
Professional Conduct Investigator 1	1	\$ 64,182	\$ 64,182
Professional Conduct Investigator 2	1	\$ 73,276	\$ 73,276
TOTAL SALARY COSTS FOR NEW HIRES			\$ 292,260

In addition to the salary costs, each new hire would also have benefits costs. The total amount of benefits costs for the five new hires would be \$185,285.

The operating costs DOS would incur would be \$128,095.

Cost	Amount
New Hire Salaries	\$ 292,260
New Hire Benefits	\$ 185,285
Operating Costs – One Time	\$ 128,095
TOTAL COSTS	\$ 605,640