

FISCAL NOTE

February 28, 2017

Bill No:	SB 325	Printer's No:	307	Sponsor:	Gordner (R)
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COST / (SAVINGS)

Fund (s)	2018-19	2019-20
General Fund – Restricted Account	See "FISCAL IMPACT"	\$245,370

SUMMARY: This bill would amend the Professional Nursing Law to provide title protection and certification of Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CNRA).

ANALYSIS: SB 325 bill would grant CRNAs the right to use the title of Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist and defines the title. To receive the title protection, a CRNA must:

- Have earned a master's degree, doctoral degree, or post-master's certification from a board-approved accredited educational program in nurse anesthesia;
- Have a current national certification as a CRNA from a board-recognized national certification organization;
- Have passed a national certifying examination in nurse anesthesia; and
- Meet all other requirements set by the board.

A registered nurse that does not have a graduate level education would qualify for CRNA certification if the nurse meets the educational requirements for CRNAs at the time the nurse completed a nurse anesthesia educational program and submits evidence of recertification as a CRNA from a board-recognized national certification organization that required passage of a national certifying examination in nurse anesthesia.

Also, a CRNA would have to submit an application and an application fee to the State Board of Nursing. The fee will be promulgated through regulation by the Board.

A CRNA would be eligible for biennial certification renewal if the nurse completed at least 30 hours of continuing education, pays a renewal fee, and verifies that the nurse holds a current recertification from a board-recognized national certification organization that required passage of a national certifying examination in nurse anesthesia.

Additionally, a CRNA would be required to maintain professional liability coverage as provided under the Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error (MCARE) Act.

The State Board of Nursing would promulgate regulations for the implementation of the bill within 18 months of the effective date.

The act would take effect in 60 days.

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FISCAL IMPACT: This bill would have a fiscal impact of \$245,370 in the first full year of implementation, which would be due to the promulgation of regulations and start-up costs. Currently, there are an estimated 3,000 CRNA's practicing in Pennsylvania and 550 CRNA students in education programs in Pennsylvania. In order for the Board to process these certifications, the Board would need to hire two additional Clerk Typist 3 staffers. As such, the bill would result in \$189,245 in personnel costs due to salary and benefit costs for the new hires. Additionally, the bill would require the department to create applications and issue and renew certifications, which would have an operating cost of \$56,125.

Personnel	\$ 189,245
Operating	\$ 56,125
TOTAL	\$ 245,370

The Department of State possesses the authority to charge a fee to cover the costs of issuing these licenses.