

## Progress of State Registration.

### THE STATE OF VIRGINIA NURSES' REGISTRATION BILL.

1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia,* That within sixty days after the passage of this Act the Governor of this State shall appoint a State Board of Examiners of graduate nurses, to be composed of five (5) members, to be selected by the Governor from twelve (12) nominations submitted to him by the Virginia State Association of Graduate Nurses. One of the members of this Board shall be designated to hold office one year, one for two years, one for three years, one for four years, one for five years; and thereafter, upon the expiration of the term of office of the person so appointed, the Governor of the State shall appoint a successor to each person whose term of office shall expire to hold office for five years, and the person so appointed shall be selected by the Governor from a list of seven nominations submitted to him by the Virginia State Association of Graduate Nurses. In case appointment of a successor is not made before the expiration of the term of any member, such member shall hold office until a successor is appointed and duly qualified. Any vacancy occurring in membership of the Board shall be filled by the Governor of this State for the unexpired term of such membership.

2. The members of the State Board of Examiners of registered nurses shall, before entering on the discharge of their duties, make and file with the Secretary of the Commonwealth the constitutional oath of office. They shall, as soon as organised, and annually thereafter in the month of January, elect from their number a president and a secretary, who shall be the treasurer. The treasurer, before entering upon his or her duties, shall file a bond with the Secretary of the Commonwealth for such sum as shall be required of him or her by the said Secretary of the Commonwealth. The Board shall adopt rules and regulations not inconsistent with this Act to govern its proceedings, and also a seal, and the secretary shall have the care and custody thereof, and he or she shall keep a record of all proceedings of the Board, including a register of the names of all nurses duly registered under this Act, which shall be open at all reasonable times to public scrutiny; and the Board shall cause the prosecution of all persons violating any of the provisions of this Act, and may incur necessary expense on that behalf. The secretary of the Board may receive a salary, which may be fixed by the Board, and which shall not exceed one hundred dollars (100 dols.) per annum; she or he shall also receive travelling and other expenses incurred in the performance of her or his official duties. The other members of the Board shall receive the sum of one dollar for each day actually engaged in this service, and all legitimate and necessary expenses incurred in attending the meeting of said Board. Said expenses and salaries shall be paid from the fees received by the Board under the provisions of this Act, and no part of the salary or other expenses of the Board shall be paid out of the State Treasury. All money received in excess of the said per diem allowance and other expenses provided for shall be held by the treasurer as a special fund for meeting the expenses of said Board and the cost of (annual) reports of the proceedings of said Board.

3. Three members of the Board shall constitute a quorum. Special meetings of the Board shall be called by the secretary upon written request of any two members. The Board shall adopt rules and regulations for the examination of applicants for licences, certificates, or to practise professional nursing of the sick in accordance with the provision of this Act, and may amend, modify, and repeal such rules and regulations from time to time. The Board shall, immediately upon the election of the officers thereof, and upon the adoption of its rules of government, or its rules and regulations for examination of applicants for registration, file with the Secretary of the Commonwealth and publish in at least one journal devoted to the interest of professional nursing and one daily newspaper published in the State of Virginia at least twice the name and address of each officer, and a copy of such rules and regulations or the amendment or modification thereof.

4. Provision shall be made by the Board hereby constituted for holding examinations at least twice in each year. All examinations shall be made directly by said Board or a committee of two (2) members delegated by the Board, and due notice shall be given of the time and place of holding such examination, as in the case provided for the publication of the rules and regulations of said Board. The examination shall be of such character as to determine the fitness of the applicant to practise professional nursing of the sick. If the result of the examination of any applicant shall be satisfactory to a majority of the Board, the secretary shall, upon an order of the Board, issue to the applicant a certificate to that effect upon payment to the secretary by the candidate of a fee of five dollars (5 dols.); whereupon the person named on the certificate shall be declared duly licensed to practise professional nursing in this State. Any persons from other States who shall show to the satisfaction of the Board that he or she is properly and duly registered for the practice of professional nursing in such States, upon payment of usual fees for certificate is entitled to a licence to practise professional nursing in this State without an examination.

5. The applicant who desires to practise professional nursing shall furnish satisfactory evidence that she or he is more than twenty-one (21) years of age, is of good moral character, has received a sufficient preliminary education as may be determined by the Board, and has graduated from a training-school of a general hospital of good standing, as may be determined by the Board, and where at least two years' training in the hospital and systematic courses of instruction are given. All nurses graduating before January 1st, 1904, shall be exempt from State examination.

6. Any person who shall show to the satisfaction of the Board that she or he was engaged in the practice of professional nursing of the sick on the date of the passage of this Act shall be entitled to a licence without passing an examination, provided such application shall be made within twelve months after the passage of this Act.

7. All persons who have duly received licences or certificates in accordance with the provisions of this Act shall be known and styled a registered nurse, and it shall be unlawful after one year from the passage of this Act for any person to practise professional nursing of the sick as such for compensation without a licence or certificate in this State, or to advertise as

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