

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1114

BY REPRESENTATIVE WILFORD CARTER

NURSES: Provide relative to licensing by the Louisiana State Board of Nursing

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 37:921, relative to the Louisiana State Board of Nursing; to
3 provide for disciplinary proceedings; to provide for the reinstatement of suspended
4 licenses in certain circumstances; to provide for the medical evaluation of licensees
5 with substance abuse disorders; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 37:921 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

8 §921. Grounds for disciplinary proceedings; reinstatement

9 A. The board may deny, revoke, suspend, probate, limit, or restrict any
10 license to practice as a registered nurse or an advanced practice registered nurse,
11 impose fines, and assess costs, or otherwise discipline a licensee and the board may
12 limit, restrict, delay, or deny a student nurse from entering or continuing the clinical
13 phase of nursing education upon proof that the licensee or student nurse:

14 (1) Is guilty of selling or attempting to sell, falsely obtaining, or furnishing
15 any nursing diploma or license to practice as a registered nurse.

16 (2) Is convicted of a crime or offense which reflects the inability of the
17 nurse to practice nursing with due regard for the health and safety of clients or
18 patients or enters a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to a criminal charge regardless
19 of final disposition of the criminal proceeding, including, but not limited to,
20 expungement or nonadjudication.

1 (3) Is unfit or incompetent by reason of negligence, habit, or other cause.

2 (4) Has demonstrated actual or potential inability to practice nursing with
3 reasonable skill and safety to individuals because of use of alcohol or drugs; or has
4 demonstrated inability to practice nursing with reasonable skill and safety to
5 individuals because of illness or as a result of any mental or physical condition.

6 (5) Is guilty of aiding or abetting anyone in the violation of any provisions
7 of this Part.

8 (6) Is mentally incompetent.

9 (7) Has had a license to practice nursing or to practice as another ~~health care~~
10 healthcare provider denied, revoked, suspended, or otherwise restricted.

11 (9) Has violated any provision of this Part.

12 B.(1) A nurse applying for reinstatement following a license suspension
13 related to a substance use disorder may submit an independent medical evaluation
14 from a licensed physician, psychiatrist, or advanced practice registered nurse
15 qualified in addiction medicine with the United States Drug Enforcement
16 Administration.

17 (2) The board shall recognize medication-assisted treatment, including but
18 not limited to treatment with buprenorphine, methadone, or naltrexone, as an
19 evidence-based treatment for opioid use disorder.

20 (3) The board shall not deny reinstatement solely on the basis that a nurse
21 is receiving medication-assisted treatment prescribed by a licensed healthcare
22 professional. The board shall not require an evaluation from a board-contracted
23 physician when a qualified independent evaluation is provided.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 1114 Original

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Wilford Carter

Abstract: Requires the La. St. Board of Nursing (board) to recognize medication-assisted treatment as a valid treatment for substance use disorder and prohibits the board from denying license reinstatement solely because the licensee is receiving such treatment.

Present law provides that the board may license a person to practice as a nurse, advanced practice registered nurse, or other healthcare professional governed by the board.

Present law provides that the board may suspend or revoke the license of a healthcare professional governed by the board for actions that display a disregard for ethical violations or actions by a licensee that represent a danger to public safety and health including but not limited to a substance use disorder.

Proposed law authorizes a nurse seeking reinstatement after a substance use disorder-related suspension to submit a qualified independent medical evaluation.

Proposed law requires the board to recognize medication-assisted treatment as an evidence-based treatment for opioid use disorder.

Proposed law prohibits denial of reinstatement solely due to participation in medication-assisted treatment and bars requiring a board-contracted evaluation if a qualified independent evaluation is provided.

(Amends R.S. 37:921)