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October 1, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Kathy Harrington
Co-Chair, Joint Legislative Administrative
Procedure Oversight Committee
Kathy.Harrington@ncleg.net
300 N. Salisbury Street
Room 300-C
Raleigh, NC 27603

The Honorable Sarah Stevens
Co-Chair, Joint Legislative Administrative
Procedure Oversight Committee
Sarah.Stevens@ncleg.gov
300 N. Salisbury Street
Room 419
Raleigh, NC 27603

RE: Report on Regulatory Flexibility During COVID-19 State of Emergency

Dear Senator Harrington and Representative Stevens:

Section 4.38(c) of North Carolina Session Law 2020-3, COVID-19 Recovery Act, requires each State Agency to report to the Joint Legislative Administrative Procedure Oversight Committee, the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations, and the Office of State Budget and Management on its efforts to exercise regulatory flexibility in accordance with the provisions outlined within Section 4.38(b) of the COVID-19 Recovery Act during the coronavirus emergency.


As co-chairs of the Joint Legislative Administrative Procedure Oversight Committee, the North Carolina Board of Nursing (NCBON) reports the following actions to you:

- Suspended renewal dates for nurse aide II listings temporarily.
- Waived license reinstatement fees temporarily for inactive and retired licensed practical nurses (LPNs) and registered nurses (RNs) who wish to practice as LPNs/RNs during the declared state of emergency.
- Suspended continuing competency completion requirements temporarily for RN and LPN license renewals.
- Created emergency temporary graduate RN/LPN license for RN and LPN program graduates who are first time NCLEX test takers so they may practice as an RN or LPN until they are able to take and pass the NCLEX examination and complete criminal background check requirements. The temporary license is valid up to six months and the holder of the permit shall identify themselves as a Graduate RN or Graduate LPN.
- Created emergency temporary graduate clinical nurse specialist (CNS) recognition for new graduate CNSs so an applicant for a first-time recognition as a CNS may practice until he or she is able to take the certification examination. The recognition shall expire six months from the date of issuance. The holder of the temporary recognition shall identify themselves as a Graduate CNS.
- Created emergency temporary graduate certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA) recognition for new graduate CRNAs so an applicant for a first-time recognition as a CRNA may practice until he or she is able to

take the certification examination. The recognition shall expire six months from the date of issuance. The holder of the temporary recognition shall identify themselves as a Graduate CRNA.

- In collaboration with the North Carolina Medical Board, created emergency temporary graduate nurse practitioner (NP) approval to practice so an applicant for a first-time approval to practice may practice as an NP until he or she is able to take the certification examination. Practice shall be under the supervision of an on-site supervising physician. The temporary approval to practice shall expire six months from the date of issuance. The holder of the temporary approval to practice shall identify themselves as a Graduate Nurse Practitioner.
- In collaboration with the North Carolina Medical Board, waived approval to practice reinstatement fees temporarily for NPs who wish to practice as NPs during the declared state of emergency.
- The Midwifery Joint Committee has submitted the required reports for actions taken related to nurse midwives.
- A full list of the temporary waivers created by the NCBON in response to the coronavirus emergency is available on the NCBON website at the following link: <https://www.ncbon.com/news-publications-statistics-important-information-about-covid-19>.

Respectfully,



Julia George, RN, MSN, FRE
Chief Executive Officer
North Carolina Board of Nursing

cc: Virginia Barlow
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Legislative Analysis Division
Virginia.Barlow@ncleg.gov