



Economic Impact Analysis Virginia Department of Planning and Budget

18 VAC 110-20 – Regulations Governing the Licensure of Nurse Practitioners Department of Health Professions July 26, 2002

The Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) has analyzed the economic impact of this proposed regulation in accordance with Section 9-6.14:7.1.G of the Administrative Process Act and Executive Order Number 25 (98). Section 9-6.14:7.1.G requires that such economic impact analyses include, but need not be limited to, the projected number of businesses or other entities to whom the regulation would apply, the identity of any localities and types of businesses or other entities particularly affected, the projected number of persons and employment positions to be affected, the projected costs to affected businesses or entities to implement or comply with the regulation, and the impact on the use and value of private property. The analysis presented below represents DPB's best estimate of these economic impacts.

Summary of the Proposed Regulation

The Boards of Medicine and Nursing (boards) propose to 1) add psychiatric nurse practitioner to the list of categories by which the boards license nurse practitioners, and 2) to add clarifying language concerning from which agencies license applicants may hold professional certification in order to qualify for licensure.

Estimated Economic Impact

The boards license nurse practitioners for practice in specific fields. The current regulations state that the boards shall license nurse practitioners in the following categories: 1) adult nurse practitioner, 2) family nurse practitioner, 3) pediatric nurse practitioner, 4) family planning nurse practitioner, 5) obstetric/gynecological nurse practitioner, 6) emergency nurse practitioner, 7) geriatric nurse practitioner, 8) certified registered nurse anesthetist, 9) certified nurse midwife, 10) school nurse practitioner, 11) medical nurse practitioner, 12) maternal child health nurse practitioner, 13) neonatal nurse practitioner, 14) women's health nurse practitioner,

and 15) acute care nurse practitioner. The regulations also state that other categories of licensed nurse practitioners shall be licensed if the Committee of the Joint Boards of Nursing and Medicine determines that the category meets the requirements of the regulations. The boards have in fact licensed a sixteenth category, psychiatric nurse practitioners. The boards propose to add this sixteenth category to the list of nurse practitioner licensure fields.

The boards could continue to license psychiatric nurse practitioners without listing the category in the regulations. Adding the category to the regulations informs potentially interested parties that the licensure category exists. Some individuals may choose to pursue a psychiatric nurse practitioner license who otherwise would not have due to lack of knowledge of the license availability. Thus the proposal to add the psychiatric nurse practitioner category to the regulations produces potential benefit.

Individuals must submit evidence of professional certification by a board-approved agency in order to qualify for initial licensure. Both the current and proposed regulations state that the boards shall approve professional certification from any one of six specified agencies, or may accept professional certification from other certifying agencies provided that the professional certification is awarded on the basis of: 1) completion of an approved education program, and 2) achievement of a passing score on an examination. The boards propose to add clarifying language to the regulations stating that they may only accept professional certification from other certifying agencies if the agency is accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education or deemed acceptable by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing. This new language conforms to the boards' long-time policy. Since the language just clarifies long-time policy, it will not have significant impact.

Businesses and Entities Affected

The proposed regulations affect the 4,400 individuals that currently hold licensure in one of the 16 nurse practitioner licensure fields, individuals interested in nurse practitioner licensure, and physicians and patients who interact with nurse practitioners.

Localities Particularly Affected

The proposed regulations potentially affect all Virginia localities.

Projected Impact on Employment

Including the psychiatric nurse practitioner category in the regulations may increase the number of individuals who pursue that license.

Effects on the Use and Value of Private Property

If individuals seek and obtain the psychiatric nurse practitioner license due to learning about it through its inclusion in the regulations, and working with that license increases their net earnings, then the proposal to include that license category in the regulations will increase the value of their private property.