CHAPTER 21
NURSES


33-21-119. Short title.

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Wyoming Nurse Practice Act".

33-21-120. Definitions.

(a) As used in this act:

(i) "Advanced practice registered nurse (APRN)" means a nurse who:

   (A) May prescribe, administer, dispense or provide nonprescriptive and prescriptive medications including prepackaged medications, except schedule I drugs as defined in W.S. 35-7-1013 and 35-7-1014;

   (B) Has responsibility for the direct care and management of patients and clients in relation to their human needs, disease states and therapeutic and technological interventions;
(C) Has a master’s degree in nursing, or an advanced practice registered nurse specialty or has completed an accredited advanced practice registered nurse educational program prior to January 1, 1999; and

(D) Has completed an advanced program of study in a specialty area in an accredited nursing program, has taken and passed a national certification examination in the same area and has been granted recognition by the board to practice as an APRN;

(ii) "Alford plea" means a plea agreement where the defendant has pled guilty yet not admitted to all the facts that comprise the crime;

(iii) "Approval" is the process by which the board provides for evaluation and grants official recognition to nursing educational programs which meet established uniform and reasonable standards;

(iv) "Board" means the Wyoming state board of nursing;

(v) "Certificate" means a document issued by the board permitting the performance by a nursing assistant/nurse aide of basic related nursing tasks and skills delegated by a licensed nurse and as allowed by statute and board rule;

(vi) "Competence" means the application of knowledge and the interpersonal, critical thinking, decision-making and psychomotor skills expected for the practice role within the context of public health, safety and welfare;

(vii) "Impaired" means the inability to practice nursing with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of one (1) or more of the following:

(A) Lack of nursing competence;

(B) Mental illness;

(C) Physical illness including, but not limited to, deterioration through the aging process or loss of motor skill; or

(D) Chemical or alcohol impairment.

(viii) "License" means a current document permitting the practice of nursing as a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse;

(ix) "Nursing process" means the investigative approach to nursing practice utilizing a method of problem identification by means of:

(A) Assessment: A systematic and continuous collection of objective and subjective data about the health status of individuals and groups derived from observations, health assessment including physical assessment, interviews, written records and reports;

(B) Nursing Diagnosis: The identification of actual or potential responses to health needs or problems based on collecting, analyzing and comparing data with appropriate nursing standards to serve as the basis for providing nursing care or for which referral to appropriate medical or community resources is required;

(C) Planning: Development of a plan of care which includes measurable goals derived from the nursing diagnosis and identified priorities to maintain comfort, support of human functions and responses, and an environment conducive to wellness;

(D) Intervention: Actions in nursing practice which implement the plan of care to maximize
health capabilities of individuals and groups;

(E) Evaluation: The continuous appraisal of the effectiveness of goal attainment in the plan of care by means of reassessing health status, and if necessary, modifying nursing diagnosis, plan of care and interventions.

(x) "Practice of practical nursing" means the performance of technical services and nursing procedures which require basic knowledge of the biological, physical, behavioral, psychological and sociological sciences. These skills and services are performed under the direction of a licensed physician or dentist, advanced practice registered nurse or registered professional nurse. Standardized procedures that lead to predictable outcomes are utilized in the observation and care of the ill, injured and infirm, in provision of care for the maintenance of health, in action directed toward safeguarding life and health, in administration of medications and treatments prescribed by any person authorized by state law to prescribe and in delegation to appropriate assistive personnel as provided by state law and board rules and regulations;

(xi) "Practice of professional nursing" means the performance of professional services requiring substantial knowledge of the biological, physical, behavioral, psychological and sociological sciences, and of nursing theory as the basis for applying the nursing process which consists of assessment, diagnosis, planning, intervention and evaluation. The nursing process is utilized in the promotion and maintenance of health, case finding and management of illness, injury or infirmity, restoration of optimum function and achievement of a dignified death. Nursing practice includes but is not limited to administration, teaching, counseling, supervision, delegation, evaluation of nursing practice and execution of the medical regimen. The therapeutic plan includes the administration of medications and treatments prescribed by any person authorized by state law to prescribe. Each registered professional nurse is accountable and responsible for the quality of nursing care rendered;

(xii) "Practice of a certified nursing assistant/nurse aide" means, regardless of title or care setting, the performance of nursing related tasks and services delegated by a licensed nurse. The nursing assistant/nurse aide shall complete a specified course of study approved by the board, meet minimum competency requirements and be certified by the board;

(xiii) "This act" means W.S. 33-21-119 through 33-21-157.

33-21-121. Board of nursing; membership; appointment; qualifications; term of office; vacancies; removal.

(a) The board of nursing shall consist of seven (7) members to be appointed by the governor. Five (5) members shall be registered nurses, one (1) member shall be a licensed practical nurse and one (1) member shall be a representative of the public. Membership shall be restricted to no more than one (1) person who is associated with a particular agency, educational institution, corporation or other enterprise or subsidiary at one time. Membership shall represent various geographical areas of Wyoming.

(b) Each registered nurse member of the board shall be a resident of this state, licensed in good standing under the provisions of this act, currently engaged in the practice of nursing as a registered nurse and shall have had no less than five (5) years of experience as a registered nurse, at least three (3) of which immediately preceded appointment. Of the five (5) registered nurse members on the board, one (1) member shall have had at least two (2) years of experience in an administrative or teaching position in a nursing education program, one (1) member shall have had at least two (2) years of experience in administration in nursing service or public health nursing, one (1) member shall have at least two (2) years experience as an advanced practice registered nurse, and the remaining two (2) members shall be appointed from various areas of nursing.

(c) The practical nurse member shall be a resident of this state, licensed in good standing under the provisions of this act, currently engaged in the practice of nursing as a licensed practical nurse, and shall have had no less than five (5) years of experience as a licensed practical nurse, at least three (3) of
which immediately preceded appointment.

(d) The representative of the public shall be a resident of this state who has attained the age of majority, is interested in consumer health concerns and shall not be nor ever have been licensed or employed as a provider of health care services or be enrolled or employed in any health related educational program.

(e) Members of the board shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years.

(f) The present members of the board holding office under the provisions of the Wyoming Nurse Practice Act as of July 1, 2005 shall serve as members for their respective terms.

(g) No member shall serve more than two (2) consecutive full terms. The completion of an unexpired portion of a full term shall not constitute a full term for purposes of this subsection. Any board member initially appointed for less than a full term is eligible to serve for two (2) additional consecutive full terms.

(h) An appointee to a full term on the board shall be appointed by the governor prior to the expiration of a term of the member being succeeded and shall become a member of the board on the first day following the expiration date of the preceding term. Appointees to unexpired portions of full terms shall become members of the board on the day following the appointment. Each term of office shall expire at 12:00 midnight on the last day of February for the term of the appointment.

(i) A vacancy that occurs for any reason in the membership of the board shall be filled by the governor in the manner prescribed in the provisions of this act regarding appointments. A person appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve for the unexpired portion of the term.

(k) The governor may remove any member from the board as provided in W.S. 9-1-202.

33-21-122. Board of nursing; powers and duties.

(a) The responsibility for enforcement of the provisions of this act [§§ 33-21-119 through 33-21-156] is vested in the board of nursing. The board shall have all of the duties, powers and authority specifically granted by and necessary to the enforcement of this act.

(b) The board of nursing may make, adopt, amend, repeal and enforce reasonable rules and regulations necessary for the proper administration and enforcement of this act.

(c) Without limiting the foregoing, the board of nursing may do the following:

(i) Develop by rules and regulations uniform and reasonable standards for nursing practice;

(ii) Appoint advisory committees to provide expertise in specific areas of education or practice under consideration by the board;

(iii) Publish advisory opinions relative to whether the nursing procedures, policies and other practices of any agency, facility, institution or other organization that employs individuals licensed under this act complies with the standards of nursing practice as defined in this act and board rules and regulations. The board may submit comments, register complaints or file charges with the appropriate advisory, certifying or regulatory body governing the agency, facility, institution or organization that authorizes and condones violations of this act or board rules and regulations;

(iv) Report alleged violations of this act to the district attorney of the county where the violation occurred;

(v) Examine, license, renew, relicense and reactivate the licenses of duly qualified individuals, may grant individuals a temporary permit to engage in the practice of professional and practical nursing in this state within the limits imposed in this act and may develop, by board rules and regulations, standards
for continued competency of licensees continuing in or returning to practice;

(vi) Deny any applicant a license or temporary permit to practice professional or practical nursing, whether by examination, licensure, endorsement, renewal, relicensure or reactivation, if the applicant fails to meet the requirements of this act or board rules and regulations;

(vii) Conduct surveys and collect data related to licensure and educational enrollments and report to the public;

(viii) Conduct investigations, hearings and proceedings concerning alleged violations of this act and board rules and regulations and shall request criminal history background information on license or certificate applicants as authorized under W.S. 7-19-106(a)(viii);

(ix) Compel attendance of witnesses, issue subpoenas and administer oaths to those testifying at hearings;

(x) Determine and administer appropriate disciplinary action against all individuals found guilty of violating this act and board rules and regulations;

(xi) Develop and enforce uniform and reasonable standards for nursing education programs as stated in board rules and regulations;

(xii) Approve nursing education programs that meet the prescribed standards of the board;

(xiii) Deny or withdraw approval of nursing education programs that fail to meet the prescribed standards of the board;

(xiv) Regulate by board rules and regulations the qualifications of advanced practice registered nurses;

(xv) Maintain records of proceedings as required by state law;

(xvi) Conduct conferences, forums, studies and research on nursing practice and education;

(xvii) Maintain nursing statistics for purposes of nursing manpower planning and nursing education;

(xviii) Appoint and employ a registered nurse qualified by nursing experience and a minimum of a master's degree in nursing to serve as executive director, approve additional staff positions as may be necessary in the opinion of the board to administer and enforce the provisions of this act and determine qualifications for such positions;

(xix) Participate in and pay membership fees to organizations that develop and regulate the national nursing licensure examinations and exclusively promote the improvement of the uniform and reasonable standards for the practice of nursing for protection of the public health, safety and welfare;

(xx) Submit an annual report to the governor, summarizing the board's proceedings and activities;

(xxi) Determine and collect reasonable fees not to exceed five hundred dollars ($500.00) as established by board rules and regulations;

(xxii) Receive and expend funds for the pursuit of the authorized objectives of the board of nursing. Funds shall be maintained in a separate account and periodic reports of the receipt and expenditure of funds shall be submitted to the governor;

(xxiii) Adopt a seal which shall be in the care of the executive director and which shall be affixed
only in a manner as prescribed by the board; and

(xxiv) By board rule and regulation, regulate the qualifications, certification, recertification, examination and discipline of nursing assistants and nurse aides. For purposes of carrying out this paragraph, fingerprints and other information necessary for a criminal history record background check pursuant to W.S. 7-19-201 shall be provided to the board.

(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this act, the board shall not, by rule or otherwise, limit the right of licensed nurses to practice with other health professionals or in an association, partnership, corporation or other lawful entity, nor limit the right of licensed nurses to practice under the name "nursing clinic", "nursing center" or other descriptive terms, provided the term is not misleading regarding the nature of services provided.

(e) This act does not require the board of nursing to act upon violations of the provisions of the act whenever, in the board's opinion, the public interest will be served adequately by a suitable written notice of warning to affected parties.

33-21-123. Executive director; appointment; assistant; powers and duties; salary and expenses.

(a) An executive director shall be appointed by the board and is responsible for the performance of administrative responsibilities of the board and other duties as the board directs.

(b) The executive director and assistant to the executive director shall be registered nurses, licensed in the state of Wyoming and qualified by nursing experience and a minimum of a master's degree in nursing.

(c) The executive director and assistant to the executive director may act on the board's behalf during the period between board meetings in matters of licensure, examination, disciplinary and other administrative functions.

(d) The executive director and the assistant to the executive director of the board of nursing shall receive an annual salary which shall be determined by the board in conjunction with the personnel department and which shall be competitive with salaries for positions requiring similar education and experience and shall receive reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses incurred in connection with the performance of official duties as provided for in state statutes.

33-21-124. Board; officers; duties; terms.

(a) The board of nursing shall elect from its registered nurse members a president and vice president. The president shall preside at board meetings and shall be responsible for the performance of all duties and functions of the board required or permitted by this act [§§ 33-21-119 through 33-21-156]. In the absence of the president, the vice president shall assume these duties.

(b) Additional offices shall be established and filled by the board at its discretion.

(c) Officers elected by the board shall serve a term of one (1) year commencing with the day of their election and ending upon election of their successors and shall serve no more than three (3) consecutive full terms in each office to which they are elected.

33-21-125. Board; meetings; notice; quorum; board action; conflict of interest.

(a) The board of nursing shall meet at least once every six (6) months to transact its business. One (1) meeting shall be designated as the annual meeting for the purpose of electing officers and board reorganization and planning. The board shall meet at additional times as it may determine. Additional meetings may be called by the president of the board or by two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the board. Board meetings and hearings shall be open to the public. In accordance with the law, the board may conduct part of the meeting in executive session, closed to the public.
(b) Notice of all board meetings shall be given in the manner pursuant to board rules and regulations.

(c) A majority of the board members including the president or vice president constitutes a quorum for the conduct of a board meeting. The act of the majority of members present at a meeting, which includes a quorum, shall be the act of the board of nursing.

(d) The board members shall vote when present. When a conflict of interest exists, the board members shall abstain from voting.

33-21-126. Board; compensation.

Each member of the board shall receive as salary the sum paid each day to legislators and shall be reimbursed under W.S. 9-3-102 and 9-3-103 for per diem and travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

33-21-127. Qualifications for licensure; application requirements.

(a) An applicant for licensure by examination to practice as a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse shall:

   (i) Submit a written application verified by oath as prescribed by the board;

   (ii) Be a graduate of a state board approved nursing education program recognized by the board which prepares for the level of licensure being sought;

   (iii) Pass a board approved national nursing licensure examination;

   (iv) Have committed no acts which are grounds for disciplinary action as set forth in W.S. 33-21-146, or if the act has been committed, the board may, at its discretion and after investigation, determine that sufficient restitution has been made; and

   (v) Remit fees as specified by the board.

(b) An applicant for licensure by endorsement to practice as a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse shall:

   (i) Submit a written application verified by oath as prescribed by the board;

   (ii) Be a graduate of a state board approved nursing education program recognized by the board which prepares for the level of licensure being sought;

   (iii) Have committed no acts which are grounds for disciplinary action as set forth in W.S. 33-21-146, or if the act has been committed, the board may, at its discretion and after investigation, determine that sufficient restitution has been made;

   (iv) Remit fees as specified by the board; and

   (v) Submit proof of initial licensure by an examination acceptable to the board, provided that when the applicant secured his or her initial license, the requirements for licensure included the requirements then necessary for licensure in this state and have submitted proof that the license has not been suspended, revoked or otherwise restricted for any reason; or

   (vi) Be required to pass an examination or meet other requirements as specified by the board, if the applicant has not passed an examination acceptable to the board.

(c) Each applicant who successfully meets the requirements of this section is entitled to licensure as
a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse, whichever is applicable.

(d) In addition to subsections (a) and (b) of this section, an applicant for licensure under this act shall provide the board fingerprints and other information necessary for a criminal history record background check as provided under W.S. 7-19-201.

33-21-128. Examinations for licensure; reexamination.

(a) Repealed by Laws 2005, ch. 224, § 2.

(b) The board may employ, contract and cooperate with any organization in the preparation, administration and grading of an appropriate national nursing licensure examination.

(c) The board shall by rules and regulations limit the number of reexaminations which may be taken by the applicant after the initial failure of a board approved national nursing licensure examination.

33-21-129. Renewal of licenses.

(a) Licenses issued under this act [§§ 33-21-119 through 33-21-156] shall be renewed biennially according to a schedule established by board rules and regulations.

(b) A renewal license shall be issued to a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse who demonstrates satisfactory completion of requirements established by the board and who remits the required fees established in the board rules and regulations.

(c) Any license issued by the board shall expire if the licensee fails to renew the license as established in board rules and regulations, including the remittance of all fees.

(d) Failure to renew the license by the expiration date shall result in forfeiture of the right to practice nursing in this state.

33-21-130. Relicensure.

Licensees who have allowed their license to lapse by failure to renew as herein provided, may apply for relicensure according to board rules and regulations. Upon satisfaction of the requirements for relicensure, the board shall issue a renewal of license to practice nursing.

33-21-131. Inactive status; reactivation.

Licensees who hold an active license to practice in this state, and who wish to discontinue the practice of professional or practical nursing in this state, may request in writing that the board place their license on inactive status. A licensee on inactive status shall not be considered lapsed or expired. A biennial renewal fee shall be required to retain the inactive status. Licensees on inactive status may apply for reactivation pursuant to board rules and regulations.

33-21-132. Temporary permit.

(a) The board may issue a temporary permit to practice nursing to a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse who is awaiting licensure by endorsement and who is currently licensed in good standing in another jurisdiction, territory or possession of the United States. The period for a temporary permit shall not exceed ninety (90) days, provided the applicant submits a written application for licensure by endorsement in a form and substance satisfactory to the board.

(b) The board may issue a temporary permit to practice nursing to a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse who is not seeking licensure by endorsement and who is currently licensed in good standing in another jurisdiction, territory or possession of the United States. The period for a temporary
permit shall not exceed ninety (90) days, provided the applicant submits a written application for licensure by endorsement in a form and substance satisfactory to the board. A temporary permit for such a request shall be issued only one (1) time.

(c) The board may issue a temporary permit to practice nursing to a graduate of an approved nursing education program, pending the results of the first board approved national nursing licensure examination offered after graduation. A temporary permit shall not be issued to any applicant who has previously failed a board approved national nursing licensure examination. The temporary permit shall be surrendered in event of failure of the licensure examination. A new graduate holding a temporary permit shall practice only under the direction and supervision of a registered professional nurse.

(d) The board may issue a temporary permit to graduates of foreign schools of nursing who have met the requirements for licensure by examination or endorsement pursuant to board rules and regulations. Applicants showing evidence of certification from a board approved national certifying organization for graduates of foreign nursing schools shall take the first board approved national nursing licensure examination offered for which they are eligible.

(e) A temporary permit is nonrenewable.

33-21-133. Licensees to provide statistical information to board.

Each licensee shall provide reasonable information for statistics requested by the board to perform its duties in nursing manpower planning.

33-21-134. Registered professional nurse; use of R.N.; advanced practice registered nurse; use of A.P.R.N.

(a) Any person who holds a license to practice as a registered professional nurse in this state shall have the right to use the title "Registered Nurse" and the abbreviation "R.N." No other person shall assume this title or use this abbreviation or any words, letters, signs or devices to indicate that the person using same is a registered professional nurse.

(b) Any person who holds a license to practice as an advanced practice registered nurse in this state shall have the right to use the title "Advanced Practice Registered Nurse" and the abbreviation "A.P.R.N." No other person shall assume this title or use this abbreviation or any words, letters, signs or devices to indicate that the person using same is an advance practice registered nurse.

33-21-135. Licensed practical nurse; use of L.P.N.

Any person who holds a license to practice as a licensed practical nurse in this state shall have the right to use the title "Licensed Practical Nurse" and the abbreviation "L.P.N." No other person shall assume this title or use this abbreviation or any words, letters, signs or devices to indicate that the person using same is a licensed practical nurse.

33-21-136. New graduate professional nurse; use of G.N.; new graduate advanced practice registered nurse; use of G.A.P.R.N.

(a) Any person who holds a temporary permit as a new graduate professional nurse in this state shall use the title "Graduate Nurse" and the abbreviation "G.N." No other person shall assume this title or use this abbreviation or any words, letters, signs or devices to indicate that the person using same is a new graduate professional nurse.

(b) Any person who holds a temporary permit as a new graduate advanced practice registered nurse in this state shall use the title "Graduate Advanced Practice Registered Nurse" and the abbreviation "G.A.P.R.N." No other person shall assume this title or use this abbreviation or any words, letters, signs or devices to indicate that the person using same is a new graduate advanced practice registered nurse.
33-21-137. New graduate practical nurse; use of G.P.N.

Any person who holds a temporary permit as a new graduate practical nurse in this state shall use the title "Graduate Practical Nurse" and the abbreviation "G.P.N." No other person shall assume this title or use this abbreviation or any words, letters, signs or devices to indicate that the person using same is a new graduate practical nurse.

33-21-138. Nursing education programs; approval by board.

The board shall by rules and regulations that establish standards for nursing education programs define the process for board approval of nursing education programs and collect actual costs incurred for the approval process for nursing education programs, not to exceed five thousand dollars ($5,000.00).

33-21-139. Nursing education programs; approval by board; procedure.

An institution or program desiring to initiate a nursing education program in this state shall apply to the board and submit evidence that its nursing program is able to meet the standards established by the board. If upon investigation the board finds that the program meets the established standards for nursing education programs, it may grant approval to the applicant program.

33-21-140. Nursing education programs; periodic evaluation.

The board shall periodically provide for reevaluation of approved nursing education programs based on actual reports or resurveys and shall publish a list of approved programs. The board shall collect actual costs incurred for the survey and approval process from the nursing education program, not to exceed five thousand dollars ($5,000.00).

33-21-141. Nursing education programs; denial or withdrawal of approval.

The board may deny or withdraw approval or take action as deemed necessary regarding nursing education programs that fail to meet the standards established by the board, provided that all actions shall be effected in accordance with the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act [§§ 16-3-101 through 16-3-115].

33-21-142. Nursing education programs; reinstatement of approval.

The board may reinstate approval of a nursing education program upon submission of satisfactory evidence that its program meets the standards established by the board.

33-21-143. Nursing education programs; provisional approval.

The board may grant provisional approval of new programs pending the licensure results of the first graduating class.

33-21-144. Nursing education programs; conditional approval.

The board may grant conditional approval of an established program pending removal or correction of deficiencies, as identified by the board.

33-21-145. Violations; penalties.

(a) No person shall:

(i) Engage in the practice of nursing as defined in this act [§§ 33-21-119 through 33-21-156] without a valid, current license or temporary permit, except as otherwise permitted under this act;
(ii) Practice nursing under cover of any diploma, license or record illegally or fraudulently obtained or signed or issued unlawfully or under fraudulent representation;

(iii) Use any words, abbreviations, figures, letters, titles, signs, cards or devices tending to imply that the person is a registered nurse, licensed practical nurse or advanced practice registered nurse unless the person is duly licensed as a registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, or recognized as an advanced practice registered nurse under this act;

(iv) Knowingly employ unlicensed persons in the practice of nursing;

(v) Knowingly conceal information relating to violations of this act;

(vi) Conduct a nursing education program for the preparation of registered nurses or licensed practical nurses unless the program has been approved by the board; or

(vii) Otherwise violate or aid or abet another person to violate any provision of this act; or

(viii) Practice nursing during the time a license is suspended, revoked, surrendered, inactive or lapsed.

(b) Violation of any of the provisions of this act constitutes a misdemeanor and upon conviction, the person is subject to a fine of not more than one thousand dollars ($1,000.00), imprisonment for not more than one (1) year, or both.

33-21-146. Disciplining licensees; grounds.

(a) The board of nursing may refuse to issue or renew, or may suspend or revoke the license, certificate or temporary permit of any person, or to otherwise discipline a licensee, upon proof that the person:

(i) Has engaged in any act inconsistent with uniform and reasonable standards of nursing practice as defined by board rules and regulations;

(ii) Has been found guilty by a court, has entered an Alford plea or has entered a plea of nolo contendere to a misdemeanor or felony that relates adversely to the practice of nursing or to the ability to practice nursing;

(iii) Has practiced fraud or deceit:

(A) In procuring or attempting to procure a license to practice nursing;

(B) In filing or reporting any health care information, including but not limited to client documentation, agency records or other essential health documents;

(C) In signing any report or record as a registered nurse or as a licensed practical nurse;

(D) In representing authority to practice nursing; or

(E) In submitting any information or record to the board.

(iv) Is unfit or incompetent to practice nursing by reason of negligence, habits or other causes including but not limited to:

(A) Being unable to practice nursing with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of physical or mental disability, or use of drugs, narcotics, chemicals or any other mind-altering material; or
(B) Performance of unsafe nursing practice or failure to conform to the essential standards of acceptable and prevailing nursing practice, in which case actual injury need not be established.

(v) Has engaged in any unauthorized possession or unauthorized use of a controlled substance as defined in the Wyoming Controlled Substances Act [§§ 35-7-1001 through 35-7-1057];

(vi) Has had a license to practice nursing or to practice in another health care discipline in another jurisdiction, territory or possession of the United States denied, revoked, suspended or otherwise restricted;

(vii) Has practiced nursing within this state without a valid current license or temporary permit or as otherwise permitted under this act;

(viii) Has knowingly and willfully failed to report to the board any violation of this act or of board rules and regulations;

(ix) Has been found by the board to have violated any of the provisions of this act or of board rules and regulations; or

(x) Has knowingly engaged in an act which the licensee knew was beyond the scope of the individual's nursing practice prior to committing the act, or performed acts without sufficient education, knowledge, or ability to apply nursing principles and skills; or

(xi) Has failed to submit to a mental, physical or medical competency examination following a proper request by the board made pursuant to board rules and regulations and the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act.

(b) Upon receipt from the department of family services of a certified copy of an order from a court to withhold, suspend or otherwise restrict a license issued by the board, the board shall notify the party named in the court order of the withholding, suspension or restriction of the license in accordance with the terms of the court order. No appeal under the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act shall be allowed for a license withheld, suspended or restricted under this subsection.

33-21-147. Disciplining licensees; procedure.

A proceeding for discipline of a licensee or a temporary permit holder, or action against an applicant for a license or temporary permit, may be commenced when the board has reasonable grounds to believe that a person under the board's jurisdiction has committed acts in violation of W.S. 33-21-146. No license to practice nursing may be revoked or denied by the board without affording the licensee or applicant due process of law. However, the board may summarily suspend a license and institute proceedings concomitantly if the board finds that the licensee presents a clear and immediate danger to the public health, safety and welfare if allowed to continue to practice. For purposes of a suspension or other restriction imposed pursuant to W.S. 33-21-146(b), the board may presume that the court imposing the suspension or restriction afforded the licensee or applicant due process of law.

33-21-148. Disciplining licensees; reinstatement.

Any person whose license has been denied, suspended or revoked, pursuant to this act [§§ 33-21-119 through 33-21-156], may apply to the board for reinstatement of the license or issuance of a license after fulfilling those requirements determined by the board. The application shall be made in writing and in the form prescribed by the board. The board may grant or deny the application or it may modify its original findings to reflect any circumstances that have changed sufficiently to warrant modifications.

33-21-149. Disciplining licensees; conditional licensure.

As a result of disciplinary action, the board may in addition to other powers and duties, issue, renew or reinstate licenses subject to reasonable conditions which the board may impose.
33-21-150. Immunity of board members and persons reporting information to board.

(a) Any member or agent of the board, or any person under oath, is not subject to a civil action for damages as a result of reporting information in good faith, without fraud or malice, relating to alleged violations of this act or board rules and regulations including, but not limited to:

(i) Negligence, malpractice or the qualification, fitness or character of a person licensed, or applying for a license, to practice nursing; or

(ii) Violations of the standards of nursing education programs as defined by board rule and regulations.

(b) The immunity provided by this section shall extend to the members of any professional review committee and witnesses appearing before the committee which is authorized by the board to act pursuant to this section.

33-21-151. Injunctive relief; grounds.

(a) The board may petition in its own name for an injunction to a proper court of competent jurisdiction to enjoin:

(i) Any person from practicing nursing, within the meaning of this act [§§ 33-21-119 through 33-21-156], without a valid license or temporary permit, unless so exempted under W.S. 33-21-154;

(ii) Any licensee from practicing who allegedly is in violation of this act; or

(iii) Any person, firm, corporation, institution or association from employing any individual to practice nursing who is not licensed under this act or exempted under W.S. 33-21-154.

33-21-152. Injunctive relief; procedure.

(a) Upon the filing of a verified petition the court may issue an injunction for violation of W.S. 33-21-151. In case of violation of an injunction issued under this section, the court may find the offender guilty of contempt of court.

(b) The injunction proceedings shall be in addition to, not in lieu of, all penalties and other remedies provided in this act [§§ 33-21-119 through 33-21-156].

33-21-153. Names of terminated licensees to board; enforcement by court order; civil contempt for noncompliance; immunity.

(a) Hospitals, nursing homes and other employers of registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and advanced practice registered nurses shall report to the board the names of those licensees whose employment has been terminated voluntarily or involuntarily for any reasons stipulated in W.S. 33-21-146.

(b) The board may seek an order from a proper court of competent jurisdiction for a report from any of the parties stipulated in subsection (a) of this section if one is not forthcoming voluntarily.

(c) The board may seek a citation for civil contempt if a court order for a report is not obeyed by any of the parties stipulated in subsection (a) of this section.

(d) Any institution or person reporting in good faith and without fraud or malice, information to the board under this section, is immune from civil action as provided in W.S. 33-21-150.

(a) No provisions in this act [§§ 33-21-119 through 33-21-156] prohibit:

(i) The practice of professional and practical nursing that is an integral part of a program by students enrolled in board approved nursing education programs leading to initial licensure;

(ii) The rendering of assistance by anyone in the case of an emergency;

(iii) The incidental health care by members of the family and friends;

(iv) The rendering of nursing services on a fee-for-service basis, or the reimbursement for nursing services directly to a registered nurse, licensed practical nurse or advanced practice registered nurse by any governmental program, commercial insurance company, hospital or medical services plan, or any other third-party payor;

(v) The establishment of an independent nursing practice by one (1) or more licensed nurses for the purpose of rendering nursing services within the scope of the license to practice nursing;

(vi) The practice of any currently registered nurse, licensed practical nurse or advanced practice registered nurse of another state who is employed by the United States government, or any bureau, division or agency thereof while in the discharge of official duties;

(vii) The practice of any currently registered nurse, licensed practical nurse or advanced practice registered nurse of another state who is employed by an individual, agency or corporation located in another state and whose employment responsibilities include transporting patients into, out of, or through this state. The exemptions shall be limited to a period not to exceed forty-eight (48) hours for each transport;

(viii) The practice of any currently registered nurse, licensed practical nurse or advanced practice registered nurse of another state who is presenting educational programs or consultative services within this state for a period not to exceed a total of fourteen (14) days per year;

(ix) The practice of any nurse, currently licensed in another jurisdiction, in the provision of nursing care in the case of an emergency or disaster as declared by the governor.

(b) Nothing in this act shall be construed as:

(i) Restricting the practice, services or activities of any person licensed under this title while practicing within the scope of practice provided in the person's licensure act under this title; or

(ii) Prohibiting or regulating the delegation of functions within the scope of practice by any person other than a nurse licensed pursuant to this title provided that the delegation does not violate the act under which the person is licensed and provided that the board of nursing may discipline anyone licensed pursuant to this act for accepting any delegation that is beyond the person’s scope of practice as defined by this act and that presents a danger of harm to a patient.

33-21-155. Board to establish fees; disposition of fees; appropriations to board.

(a) The board may establish appropriate fees as stated in board rules and regulations not to exceed the maximum stated in W.S. 33-21-122(c)(xxi).

(b) All fees collected by the board under this act shall be deposited to the state treasurer’s office and shall be placed in a separate account. There shall be appropriated to the board of nursing from the account, sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this act. Appropriations shall be based upon submission of a budgetary request as provided by W.S. 9-2-1011 and 9-2-1012.
33-21-156. Persons licensed under previous law.

(a) Any individual holding a license to practice nursing as a registered nurse in this state that is valid on July 1, 2005, shall be deemed to be licensed as a registered nurse under this act.

(b) Any individual holding a license to practice nursing as a licensed practical nurse in this state that is valid on July 1, 2005, shall be deemed to be licensed as a licensed practical nurse under this act.

(c) Any individual eligible for reactivation of a license to practice nursing as a registered nurse or as a licensed practical nurse in this state on July 1, 2005, shall be deemed to be eligible to be licensed as a registered nurse or as a licensed practical nurse.

(d) Any individual as of July 1, 2005, who has allowed a license to practice nursing as a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse in this state to lapse because of failure to renew, may become licensed as a registered nurse or as a licensed practical nurse by applying for relicensure pursuant to relicensure requirements established in this act and in board rules and regulations.

(e) Those licensed under the provisions of subsections (a) through (d) of this section are eligible for renewal of the license pursuant to renewal requirements established in this act and in board rules and regulations.

(f) Any individual holding recognition to practice as an advanced practice registered nurse in this state that is valid on July 1, 2005 shall be deemed to be an advanced practice registered nurse under this act.


(a) As used in this section, "low income uninsured person" and "nonprofit health care facility" have the same meanings as in W.S. 33-15-131(a).

(b) For purposes of this section, a person shall be considered retired from the practice of practical, professional or advanced practice registered nursing if the person's license has expired.

(c) The state board of nursing may issue, with or without examination, a volunteer's license to a person who is retired from practice so that the person may provide nursing services to low income uninsured persons at nonprofit health care facilities. The board shall deny issuance of a volunteer's license to a person who is not qualified under this section to hold a volunteer's license.

(d) An application for a volunteer's license shall include all of the following:

(i) A copy of the applicant's nursing degree;

(ii) A copy of the applicant's most recent license authorizing the practice of nursing issued by a jurisdiction in the United States that licenses persons to practice nursing;

(iii) Evidence of one (1) of the following, as applicable:

(A) The applicant has maintained for at least ten (10) years immediately prior to retirement full licensure in good standing in any jurisdiction in the United States that licenses persons to practice nursing; or

(B) The applicant has practiced for at least ten (10) years immediately prior to retirement in good standing as a nurse in one (1) or more of the branches of the United States armed services; and

(iv) A notarized statement from the applicant, on a form prescribed by the board, that the applicant:
(A) Will not accept any form of remuneration for any nursing services rendered while in possession of a volunteer's license;

(B) Will devote his nursing practice exclusively and totally to providing nursing services to low income uninsured persons at a nonprofit health care facility in this state; and

(C) Will provide any other documentation that the board reasonably may require.

(e) The holder of a volunteer's license may provide nursing services only on the premises of a nonprofit health care facility in this state and only to low income uninsured persons. The holder shall not accept any form of remuneration for providing nursing services while in possession of the license. The board may revoke a volunteer's license on receiving proof satisfactory to the board that the holder has engaged in practice in this state outside the scope of the license.

(f) A volunteer's license shall be valid for a period of one (1) year, unless earlier revoked under subsection (e) of this section or pursuant to title 33, chapter 21 of the Wyoming statutes. A volunteer's license may be renewed upon the application of the holder. The board shall maintain a register of all persons who hold volunteer's licenses. The board shall not charge a fee for issuing or renewing a license pursuant to this section.

(g) To be eligible for renewal of a volunteer's license, the holder of the license shall certify to the board completion of any continuing education required under this act as if the holder of the license were in active practice. The board shall not renew a license if the holder has not complied with the continuing education requirements. The nonprofit health care facility in which the holder provides nursing services may pay for or reimburse the holder for any costs incurred in obtaining the required continuing education.

(h) The board shall issue to each person who qualifies under this section a volunteer's license that states the license holder is authorized to provide nursing services pursuant to the laws of this state.

(j) Except as provided in this section, any person holding a volunteer's license issued by the board under this section shall be subject to the requirements of this act and the jurisdiction of the board as if he were licensed to practice nursing under this act.

(k) The board shall adopt rules to administer and enforce this section.