

2020 Legislative Update Board of Nursing

The following bills were enacted by the General Assembly during the 2020 legislative session and may impact the Board of Nursing and/or the Board of Nursing licensees:

CRNA Minimum Education, [S.455/Act 139](#)

Act 139 included a section to amend the minimum education requirements for licensure as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA). Specifically, the Act amends S.C. Code Section [40-33-20\(19\)\(a\)](#) to provide that a CRNA is an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) who has successfully completed an advanced, organized formal CRNA education program at “**a minimum**” of the master’s level accredited by the national accrediting organization of this specialty area and that is recognized by the board. The Act also amends Section [40-33-34\(A\)\(3\)\(b\)](#) to further provide that an APRN applicant shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant graduated with “**a minimum**” of a master’s degree from a formal CRNA education program for nurse anesthetists accredited by the national accreditation organization of the CRNA specialty.

Effective date: May 26, 2020

Emergency prescription refill increased to a fourteen-day supply or thirty-day supply based on packaging, [S.16/Act 117](#)

The Act increased the amount of a prescription a pharmacist may dispense as an emergency refill from a ten-day supply to a fourteen-day supply, or a thirty-day supply depending on the medication packaging. Specifically, the Act amends Section [40-43-86\(P\)](#) to authorize a pharmacist who receives a request for a prescription refill and is unable to obtain refill authorization from the prescriber, to dispense once within a twelve-month period, an emergency refill of up to a fourteen-day supply of the prescribed medication under the following conditions: the prescription is not for a controlled substance; the medication is essential to the maintenance of life or the continuation of therapy; continuing the therapy for up to fourteen days will produce no undesirable health consequences or cause physical or mental discomfort; the pharmacist properly records the dispensing; and the dispensing pharmacist notifies the prescriber of the refill and the amount of the refill no later than ten days after the refill is dispensed. The Act further provides that in the event that a pharmacist is unable to dispense an emergency refill for the time period specified in this subsection due to the medication’s packaging, the pharmacist is permitted to dispense up to a thirty-day quantity of the medication so long as the requirements contained in the subsection are otherwise met.

Effective date: March 24, 2020

Disclaimer: This legislative update is not intended as legal advice. LLR is providing this legislative update to notify licensees of recently enacted legislation that may impact his or her practice area or license. This legislative update provides only a high level overview of enacted legislation and licensees are urged to review the entire enacted legislation, which is available in the hyperlinks above.