

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 12, 2004

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2003–04 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2226**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Spitzer**  
(Principal coauthor: Senator Speier)  
(*Coauthors: Assembly Members Bates, Houston, and Maze*)

February 18, 2004

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An act to amend Section 2835.5 of the Business and Professions Code, relating to nursing.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2226, as amended, Spitzer. Nurse practitioners: qualification requirements.

Existing law, the Nursing Practice Act, licenses and regulates nurse practitioners by the Board of Registered Nursing. Existing law authorizes the board to issue a certificate to use the title "nurse practitioner" to a registered nurse who the board finds qualified.

This bill would, on and after January 1, 2008, require an applicant for initial qualification or certification as a nurse practitioner who has never been qualified or certified as a nurse practitioner in California or in any other state to meet specified requirements, including possessing a ~~masters of science~~ *degree in nursing or a graduate degree in nursing*, and to have satisfactorily completed a nurse practitioner program approved by the board.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 2835.5 of the Business and Professions  
2 Code is amended to read:

3 2835.5. (a) A registered nurse who is holding himself or  
4 herself out as a nurse practitioner or who desires to hold himself  
5 or herself out as a nurse practitioner shall, within the time  
6 prescribed by the board and prior to his or her next license renewal  
7 or the issuance of an initial license, submit educational,  
8 experience, and other credentials and information as the board  
9 may require for it to determine that the person qualifies to use the  
10 title “nurse practitioner,” pursuant to the standards and  
11 qualifications established by the board.

12 (b) Upon finding that a person is qualified to hold himself or  
13 herself out as a nurse practitioner, the board shall appropriately  
14 indicate on the license issued or renewed, that the person is  
15 qualified to use the title “nurse practitioner.” The board shall also  
16 issue to each qualified person a certificate evidencing that the  
17 person is qualified to use the title “nurse practitioner.”

18 (c) A person who has been found to be qualified by the board  
19 to use the title “nurse practitioner” prior to the effective date of  
20 this section, shall not be required to submit any further  
21 qualifications or information to the board and shall be deemed to  
22 have met the requirements of this section.

23 (d) On and after January 1, 2008, an applicant for initial  
24 qualification or certification as a nurse practitioner under this  
25 article who has not been qualified or certified as a nurse  
26 practitioner in California or any other state shall meet the  
27 following requirements:

28 (1) Hold a valid and active registered nursing license issued  
29 under this chapter.

30 (2) Possess a ~~masters of science~~ *degree in nursing or graduate*  
31 *degree in nursing.*

32 (3) Satisfactorily complete a nurse practitioner program  
33 approved by the board.

34 ~~(4) Present documentation of initial certification that he or she~~  
35 ~~has been granted a nurse practitioner credential by a national~~  
36 ~~certification organization recognized by the board.~~

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