

No. 477

AN ACT

Providing for and regulating the State registration of nurses and licensed attendants, the annual recording of registration certificates; and regulating the profession of nursing; and repealing certain existing laws.

Registered nurses and licensed attendants.

State board of examiners for registration.

Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That the State Board of Examiners for Registration of Nurses, hereinafter called the board, shall adopt a seal, and shall establish by-laws and regulations, not inconsistent with law, for its own government and for the execution of all of the laws which it is its duty to enforce or administer. It shall meet annually for organization, on a date to be fixed by the by-laws, and at such other times as it may designate. Its officers shall be elected for a term of one year and until their successors are elected. All vacancies arising in said offices shall be filled by the board, in like manner, for the unexpired term. It shall not have any power in any way to fix prices, or in any way control the compensation received by the registered nurse or licensed attendant.

Examination.

Section 2. The board shall, once every year and at such other times and under such conditions as shall be provided by the by-laws, examine all applicants eligible for examination to determine their qualifications for registration as registered nurses or licensed attendants, and shall issue to each person passing said examination to the satisfaction of the board a proper certificate setting forth that such person has been registered as specified thereon.

Certificate.

Application for registration as nurse.

Section 3. No application for original registration as a registered nurse shall be considered unless accompanied by a fee of ten (\$10.00) dollars. Every applicant, to be eligible for examination as a registered nurse, must furnish evidence satisfactory to the board that he or she is twenty-one years of age or over; is of good moral character; has completed work equal to a one year's course in a high school, approved by the Department of Public Instruction, followed by graduation from a training school for nurses which gives at least a two years' course of instruction, or has received instruction in different schools connected with hospitals for periods of time amounting to at least a two years' course, as aforesaid, and then graduated, which school or combination of schools must be on the approved list issued by the State Board of Examiners for Registration of Nurses, as hereinafter provided: Provided, That a graduate nurse, registered in any state of the United States where the requirements for registration, in the judgment of the board, are at least equal to the requirements of law for such nurses in Pennsylvania, may, at the discretion of the board, be registered without examination, upon application in writing; on forms provided by the board, and upon the payment of a fee of ten (\$10.00) dollars.

Qualifications.

Proviso.

Section 4. No application for original registration as a licensed attendant shall be considered unless accompanied by a fee of five (\$5.00) dollars. Every applicant for examination as a licensed attendant must furnish evidence satisfactory to the board that he or she is eighteen years of age or over; is of good moral character; has completed the course prescribed by the said board, or its equivalent, in some institution for the mentally sick, in a convalescent home, or in any institution of a similar nature not having a training school for nurses, or has had training which, in the opinion of the board, warrants the examination of said person for registration as a licensed attendant for the care of the sick.

Application for registration as licensed attendant.

Qualifications.

Section 5. The board shall, at intervals regulated by its by-laws, prepare and make available for public distribution lists of all training schools, or combinations of training schools, approved by it, the graduates of which shall be eligible for examination as registered nurses, and shall prescribe courses of training the satisfactory completion of which shall make applicants eligible for examination as licensed attendants: Provided, That the removal of any school from the approved list shall not make any bona fide student therein, at the time of said removal, ineligible for examination.

Lists of approved schools to be published.

Proviso.

Section 6. Any person who has a valid certificate of registration as a registered nurse or licensed attendant, and who has a "Certificate of Record" for the current year as hereinafter provided, may practice as such, and use the title Registered Nurse and the abbreviation R. N. or the title Licensed Attendant and the abbreviation L. A., as the case may be. This act shall not be construed so as to affect in any way the right of persons to nurse gratuitously or for hire, the purpose of this legislation being to secure the registration of those nurses and licensed attendants only who are properly qualified therefor, and to prevent the use of titles or abbreviations which would tend to mislead or deceive the public, nor shall anything contained be considered as conferring any authority to practice medicine or to undertake the treatment and cure of disease in violation of the laws of this Commonwealth.

Right to practice as registered nurse or licensed attendant.

Section 7. Each person registered with the board as a registered nurse or licensed attendant shall, annually on or before the first day of November, cause his or her certificate to be recorded in the office of the board. The fee for such recording shall be one (\$1.00) dollar for the certificate of a registered nurse and fifty cents for the certificate of a licensed attendant, or such other sum as may be fixed by the Department of Public Instruction under authority of law. The form and method of such recording of certificates shall be provided for by the board in such manner as will enable the board to carry into effect the purposes of this act.

Certificates to be recorded annually.

Fee.

Form of record.

Section 8. Each person, causing his or her certificate of registration to be recorded as required by law, shall be

"Certificate of Record."

given a card, called a "Certificate of Record," showing the year for which it is valid and which shall entitle the recipient to practice as set forth thereon.

Unlawful to practice without certificate of record.

Section 9. It shall be unlawful for any one, without a valid "Certificate of Record" as provided for herein, to practice as a registered nurse, or licensed attendant, or in any way hold himself or herself out to be such; and he or she shall, upon conviction thereof before any magistrate, alderman or justice of the peace in the county where the offense shall have been committed, be subject to a fine of not less than ten (\$10.00) dollars and not more than one hundred (\$100.00) dollars, to be collected by summary conviction as like fines are now collected by law, or, in case of nonpayment of the fine, to undergo an imprisonment in the county jail for a period not exceeding ten (10) days: Provided, That any person so convicted shall have the right to appeal as in any other case of summary conviction.

Penalty.

Proviso.

Unlawful to practice as registered nurse or licensed attendant without certificate.

Section 10. After the passage of this act, it shall be unlawful for any person, without a valid certificate of registration, to practice as, or profess to be, a registered nurse, or licensed attendant, or assume or use either of said titles, or use the abbreviations R. N., L. A., or any other letters or figures indicative of his or her being a registered nurse or licensed attendant, or, unless lawfully entitled to practice as a graduate nurse at the time this act becomes effective, to use the title graduate nurse or any equivalent thereof. The board shall have the power, through any of its members or employes, to institute any prosecutions under this act. Every person who shall violate any of the provisions of this section, or shall wilfully make false representations to the said board in applying for registration as aforesaid, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be sentenced to pay a fine of not less than fifty (\$50.00) dollars and not more than two hundred (\$200.00) dollars for each offense, or, in case of nonpayment of the fine, to undergo an imprisonment in the county jail for a period not exceeding thirty (30) days.

Penalty.

Suspension, revocation or restoration of certificate.

Section 11. The board may suspend, revoke or restore any certificate of registration for sufficient cause, in accordance with the by-laws and regulations of the board, but any suspension or revocation shall only be by unanimous vote of the members of the board after a full and fair hearing before the board upon the question of revocation, and after thirty days' notice of the time and place of said hearing and a copy of the charges preferred have been sent by registered mail to the holder of the certificate at his or her last known address. Any person aggrieved by the action of the board, in suspending or revoking a certificate or registration, may appeal therefrom within thirty days after such action to the court of common pleas of Dauphin County, which court shall hear the

Hearing.

Appeal.

matter de novo and shall enter such order affirming, modifying or reversing the action of the board as to it shall appear proper. The action of the court on any such appeal shall be final.

Section 12. All acts or parts of acts inconsistent herewith be and the same are hereby repealed. Repeal.

APPROVED—The 13th day of May, A. D. 1927.

JOHN S. FISHER

No. 478

AN ACT

Validating divorces granted on the ground of the hopeless insanity of the respondent under the provisions of an act, approved the eighteenth day of April, one thousand nine hundred and five, entitled "An act to amend section eight of the act, approved the thirteenth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and forty-three, entitled 'An act to convey certain real estate, and for other purposes,' so as to extend its provision: to the husband or wife of a lunatic or non compos mentis, and to further regulate the procedure in actions for divorce."

Whereas, Under the act of Assembly approved the eighteenth day of April, Anno Domini one thousand nine hundred and five, entitled "An act to amend section eight of the act approved the thirteenth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and forty-three, entitled 'An act to convey certain real estate, and for other purposes,' so as to extend its provisions to the husband or wife of a lunatic or non compos mentis, and to further regulate the procedure in such actions for divorce," certain divorces were granted by courts of common pleas on the ground of the hopeless insanity of the respondent, and, subsequent thereto, it was held by the Superior Court that the said act of Assembly did not constitute insanity a new ground of divorce, and it is desired to settle the legality of such divorces as may have theretofore been granted; therefore,

Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That in all cases where divorces have been heretofore granted by the courts of common pleas under the provisions of an act, approved the eighteenth day of April, Anno Domini one thousand nine hundred and five, entitled "An act to amend section eight of the act, approved the thirteenth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and forty-three, entitled 'An act to convey certain real estate, and for other purposes,' so as to extend its provisions to the husband or wife of a lunatic or non compos mentis, and to further regulate the procedure in actions for divorce," on the ground of hopeless insanity, in which the libelant therein complied with all the provisions of said act, that the said divorce shall be legal and valid and binding upon the parties thereto.

Divorce.

Where granted
under act of April
18, 1905 (P. L. 211)

Validation.

APPROVED—The 13th day of May, A. D. 1927.

JOHN S. FISHER