
BOARD OF NURSING

- Authorizes certain APRNs to prescribe schedule II controlled substances at outpatient behavioral health practices where they would otherwise not be permitted to prescribe those drugs under current law, but only if the APRN is collaborating with a physician employed by the same practice.
- Extends by ten years (to December 31, 2033) the expiration date for the Nurse Education Grant Program.

APRN prescribing for outpatient behavioral health

(R.C. 4723.481)

The bill authorizes advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) who are clinical nurse specialists, certified nurse-midwives, or certified nurse practitioners to prescribe schedule II controlled substances if the prescriptions are issued at the site of a behavioral health practice that does not otherwise qualify under current law as a site where APRNs may prescribe those drugs. The following limitations apply: (1) the behavioral health practice must be organized to provide outpatient services for treating mental health conditions, substance use disorders, or both, and (2) the APRN must be collaborating with a physician who is employed by the same practice.

Under current law, APRNs cannot generally prescribe schedule II controlled substances, other than in limited amounts for terminally ill patients. A location-based exception exists that allows APRNs to prescribe schedule II controlled substances to nonterminal patients. This exception applies to locations such as hospitals, nursing homes, and federally qualified health centers. It also allows such prescribing by APRNs at medical practices, but only if (1) the practice is comprised of one or more physicians who also are owners of the practice, (2) the practice is organized to provide direct patient care, and (3) the APRN has a standard care arrangement and collaborates with at least one of the physician owners who practice at that site. The bill creates an additional medical practice location from which APRNs can prescribe schedule II controlled substances.

Nurse education grant program

(R.C. 4723.063; Sections 610.110 and 610.111)

The bill extends by ten years, to December 31, 2033, the expiration date for the Nurse Education Grant Program. The program, administered by the Board of Nursing, provides grants to nurse education programs that partner with the following entities: other education programs, hospitals and other health care facilities, community health agencies, and patient centered medical homes. It is scheduled to sunset on December 31, 2023.