

## 27 V.I.C. § 93

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Statutes current through Act 9046 of the 2025 session of the 36th Legislature, including all code changes through October 25, 2025

**Virgin Islands Code Annotated**    **TITLE TWENTY-SEVEN Professions and Occupations**    **Chapter 1. Medicine, Surgery, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Nursing and Nurse-Midwifery**    **Subchapter IV. Nursing**

### § 93. Powers and duties of Board

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The Board of Nurse Licensure shall have the power and duty to—

- (1) within 120 days of the enactment of this subchapter adopt, amend or repeal such rules and regulations and bylaws consistent with this subchapter as may be necessary to enable it to carry into effect the provisions of this subchapter, which rules, regulations, or bylaws, when approved by the Governor shall be deemed a part of and of the same effect as this subchapter;
- (2) review schools of nursing curricula according to established and published standards which prepare students for licensure under this subchapter;
- (3) approve such schools of nursing which meet the requirements of this subchapter and of the Board;
- (4) schedule examinations for duly qualified applicants in accordance with the National Council of State Boards of Nursing and license and review licenses of duly qualified applicants;
- (5) review pertinent documents and render a decision of an applicant's eligibility to sit the examination for licensure following prescribed rules and regulations;
- (6) conduct hearings upon charges calling for discipline of a licensee or revocation of a license;
- (7) issue subpoenas, compel the appearance of witnesses and administer oaths to persons giving testimony at hearings;
- (8) cause prosecution of all persons violating this subchapter and incur the necessary expenses thereof;
- (9) review and revise application and renewal forms to provide pertinent information to be utilized for statistical purposes;

- (10)** maintain and publish annually a registry of nurse manpower;
- (11)** establish rules and regulations governing the requirements of continuing education as prerequisite for license renewal and for acceptance of certificates;
- (12)** review examination and licensing fee schedules and revise as necessary;
- (13)** establish rules and regulations regarding currency of practice and competency of recognized specialities;
- (14)** establish and/or prepare an annual budget for the Board's operation;
- (15)** make an annual report to the Governor and the Legislature;
- (16)** appoint and employ a qualified person who shall not be a member of the Board to serve as executive secretary;
- (17)** employ such other persons as may be necessary to carry out the work of the Board;
- (18)** reimburse board members for all actual and necessary expenditures incurred while actually engaged in the discharge of official duties;
- (19)** maintain membership and active participation in the National Council of State Boards of Nursing;
- (20)** function as a liaison between the National Council of State Boards of Nursing and the nursing community in the dissemination of information and support participation at functions and activities at the national level; and
- (21)** regulate Certified Nursing Assistants.

## History

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—Amended Jan. 12, 1982, No. 4666, § 6, Sess. L. 1981, p. 301; amended July 30, 2016, No. 7890, § 1(a)(2), Sess. L. 2016, p. 117.

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## 27 V.I.C. § 94

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**Virgin Islands Code Annotated**    **TITLE TWENTY-SEVEN Professions and Occupations**    **Chapter 1. Medicine, Surgery, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Nursing and Nurse-Midwifery**    **Subchapter IV. Nursing**

### § 94. Registered Nurse

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**(a)** An applicant for a license to practice as a Registered Nurse shall submit to the Board written evidence, verified by oath, that said applicant—

**(1)** is of good character;

**(2)** is in good physical and mental health;

**(3)** has completed an approved high school course of study or the equivalent thereof and meets such other preliminary requirements as the Board may prescribe; and

**(4)** has completed a basic professional curriculum in an accredited school of nursing and holds credentials therefrom.

**(b)** The applicant shall be required to pass a written examination as prescribed in the rules and regulations. Each examination may be supplemented by an oral practical examination. Upon successfully passing such examination Board shall issue to the applicant a license to practice as a registered nurse.

**(c)** The Board shall issue a license to practice nursing as a registered nurse without examination to an applicant who is a graduate of a school of nursing and who has been duly licensed as a registered nurse by examination under the laws of another state or jurisdiction of the United States if, in the opinion of the Board, the applicant meets the qualifications prescribed in the rules and regulations as a registered nurse in the Virgin Islands.

**(d)** Applicants who are graduates of a foreign nurse educational program shall be obliged to sit an examination for licensure. The Board shall review pertinent documents of the applicant and render a decision of the applicant's eligibility to sit the examination for licensure.

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

**(f)** A graduate nurse is an individual who has satisfactorily completed an accredited program preparing him or her for beginning nursing practice, under the supervision of a registered nurse. Only individuals who are graduates of such programs may use the title "Graduate Nurse" and the abbreviation "G.N." for a maximum of one year past eligibility for sitting the licensing examination for registered nurses.

**(g)** Any person who holds a license or certificate of registration to practice nursing as a registered nurse which is valid on the effective date of this subchapter shall thereafter be deemed to be a licensed registered nurse under the provisions of this subchapter.

## History

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—Amended Feb. 11, 1969, No. 2400, § 4, Sess. L. 1969, p. 34; Jan. 12, 1982, No. 4666, § 6, Sess. L. 1981, p. 301.

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## 27 V.I.C. § 95

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**Virgin Islands Code Annotated**    **TITLE TWENTY-SEVEN Professions and Occupations**    **Chapter 1. Medicine, Surgery, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Nursing and Nurse-Midwifery**    **Subchapter IV. Nursing**

### § 95. Licensed Practical Nurse

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**(a)** An applicant for license to practice as a licensed practical nurse shall submit to the Board written evidence, verified by oath, that the applicant—

**(1)** is of good character;

**(2)** is in good physical and mental health;

**(3)** has completed an approved high school course of study or the equivalent thereof, and has met the other preliminary requirements prescribed by the Board; and

**(4)** has successfully completed the prescribed curriculum in an accredited school of practical nursing and holds a diploma therefrom.

**(b)** The applicant shall be required to pass a written examination in such subjects as the Board prescribes in the rules and regulations. Each written examination may be supplemented by an oral or practical examination. Upon successfully passing such examination, the Board shall issue to the applicant a license to practice as a licensed practical nurse.

**(c)** The Board may issue a license to practice as a licensed practical nurse without examination to any applicant who has been duly registered or licensed as a practical nurse or a person entitled to perform similar services under a different title under laws of another state or jurisdiction of the United States, if in the opinion of the Board, the applicant meets the requirements for a licensed practical nurse in the Virgin Islands.

**(d)** Any person holding a license to practice as a practical nurse in the Virgin Islands shall have the right to use the title "Licensed Practical Nurse" and the abbreviation "L.P.N." No other person shall assume

such title or use such abbreviation or other words, letters, signs, or figures to indicate that the person using the same is a licensed practical nurse.

**(e)** Any person who holds a license or certificate of registration which is valid on the effective date of this section shall thereafter be deemed to be a licensed practical nurse under the provisions of this subchapter.

A graduate practical nurse is an individual who has satisfactorily completed an accredited program preparing her to begin practice as a nurse. Only individuals who are graduates of such programs may use the title Graduate Practical Nurse and abbreviation G.P.N. for a maximum of one year past eligibility for sitting the licensing examination for Licensed Practical Nurses.

## History

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—Amended Jan. 12, 1982, No. 4666, § 6, Sess. L. 1981, p. 301.

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**Virgin Islands Code Annotated TITLE TWENTY-SEVEN Professions and Occupations Chapter 1. Medicine, Surgery, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Nursing and Nurse-Midwifery Subchapter IV. Nursing**

### § 96. Certificate of nursing specialities

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**(a)** The Board of Nurse Licensure may issue certificates attesting to the qualifications of the several nursing specialities provided that said certificate for each speciality—

**(1)** requires satisfactory completion of a formal post basic registered nurse education program of at least one academic year duration, which prepared the individual for advanced specialized nursing practice; and

**(2)** includes certification by a specialty board accepted by the former Virgin Islands Board of Nurse Examiners, or graduation from an accredited program leading to a Masters Degree in a nursing clinical speciality area.

**(b)** The Board shall provide by its rules and regulations the appropriate requirements for the following specialities:

**(1)** Nurse Midwife

**(2)** Nurse Anesthetist

**(3)** Nurse Practitioner

**(4)** Clinical Nurse Specialist

**(5)** Other categories as may be determined by the Board.

### History

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—Added Jan. 12, 1982, No. 4666, § 6, Sess. L. 1981, p. 301.

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### § 98. Schools of nursing

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- (a)** The Board shall adopt rules regarding educational objectives, broad curriculum guidelines, and such administrative procedures as are necessary to insure that the program will prepare persons to begin the practice of nursing according to the objectives of the program and the definition of nursing as stated in this subchapter.
- (b)** Persons desiring approval of a proposed nursing program from the Board shall apply to the Board for such approval and submit evidence showing compliance with the rules of the Board.
- (c)** Nursing programs complying with the rules of the Board shall be granted approval by the Board.
- (d)** The Board shall make periodic reviews of approved programs of nursing to determine compliance with the standards and rules established by the Board. If the Board determines that the approved program is not in compliance with its standards, a written statement indicating the areas of non-compliance shall be given to the nursing program, and a reasonable time given to permit compliance. The Board may place nursing programs on probationary status until such time as its standards are adhered to. If, at the conclusion of the probationary period the program fails to meet the Board's standards, approval shall be rescinded. Any school having its approval rescinded shall have the right to reapply.
- (e)** A nursing program not granted initial or continued approval after reapplication may appeal to a court of competent jurisdiction within 30 days of written notification by the Board of its decision.

## History

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—Amended Jan. 12, 1982, No. 4666, § 6, Sess. L. 1981, p. 301.

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### § 99. Exemptions

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No provision of this subchapter shall be construed as prohibiting—

- (1) care to the sick rendered by family members, friends, non-institutionalized persons, or incidental care given by domestic hired help, as long as such care does not include the practice of nursing as defined in this subchapter;
- (2) assistance by anyone in case of an emergency;
- (3) the practice of nursing by a student enrolled in an approved school of nursing;
- (4) the practice of nursing by a nurse currently licensed in one of the United States or its territories for a period of up to 90 days, after providing the employer with satisfactory evidence of current licensure, and after having submitted proper application and fees to the Board for licensure prior to employment. This time may be extended by the Board for administrative reasons when necessary;
- (5) the practice of nursing by a licensed nurse in another state by one who is employed by the United States Government, or any bureau, agency, or division thereof, while in the discharge of official duties;
- (6) the practice of nursing by graduates of an approved school or its equivalent, for a period up to one year after becoming eligible to sit the licensing examination, provided that they practice under the direct supervision of a registered nurse. The Board shall determine what constitutes direct nursing supervision; and
- (7) the performance of basic nursing care by nursing assistants, supervised by a registered nurse or a licensed practical nurse.

## History

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—Amended Jan. 12, 1982, No. 4666, § 6, Sess. L. 1981, p. 301.

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## 27 V.I.C. § 100

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### § 100. Disciplinary proceedings

**(a)** The Board may deny, revoke or suspend any license to practice nursing issued by the Board or applied for in accordance with the provisions of this subchapter, upon proof that the person—

**(1)** is guilty of fraud or deceit, in procuring or attempting to procure a license to practice nursing;

**(2)** is guilty of a felonious act;

**(3)** is incompetent by reason of negligence;

**(4)** is addicted to the use of a drug which interferes with the competent function of any duties;

**(5)** is mentally ill; or

**(6)** is guilty of violating the nursing profession Code of Ethics, or has willfully and repeatedly violated any of the provisions of this subchapter.

**(b)** Upon the filing of a sworn complaint with the Board charging a person with having been guilty of any action specified in subsection (a) of this section as grounds for disciplinary action, the Board shall appoint members to investigate the charge, together with a notice of the hearing, to be served on the accused at least 20 days prior thereto. The attendance of witnesses and production of evidence at the hearing may be compelled by subpoena issued by the Board, which shall be served in accordance with law. The accused shall have the right to appear personally or by counsel or both, to procure witnesses, and to offer evidence on his or her behalf. A complete stenographic record of all hearings shall be kept and made available in the case of appeals. Appeals from decisions of the Board may be made to a competent court of law.

**(c)** If the accused is found guilty of the charges the Board may refuse to issue a license to the applicant or may revoke or suspend the license.

**(d)** A revoked or suspended license may be reissued after one (1) year in the discretion of the Board.

## History

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—Amended Jan. 12, 1982, No. 4666, § 6, Sess. L. 1981, p. 301.

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