



Oregon

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February 4, 2019

Before the
Senate Committee on Health Care

Senate Bill 64

The Oregon State Board of Nursing wishes to submit testimony regarding Senate Bill 64 and the -1 amendment. The purpose of the bill is to update several sections of statute and reduce confusion for nursing applicants and licensees.

The approval of nursing education programs in Oregon is one of the core functions of the Board. However, current statute refers to this function as both “approval” and “accreditation,” which leads to confusion. The Board is not an accrediting agency. The term “accredited” is reserved for those organizations approved by the state to accredit institutions of higher education. The Board is authorized only to measure and approve a school’s nursing education program’s ability to meet the standards developed in Board rule, not to certify the quality of the school itself.

Another spot of frequent confusion, especially for nurses coming to Oregon from another state, is the use of the term ‘certification’ in statute regarding the licensure of certain advanced practice nurses. There are a variety of national certifications that APRNs must obtain, and those certifications are often confused with their license issued by the OSBN.

The dash-1 amendment remedies an unintended issue that OHA brought to our attention recently regarding school nurses. Because the bill touches so many areas of statute, some very old, out-of-date language (located in ORS 342.475(2)) in the Teachers Standards and Practices Commission chapter was affected. The amendment not only fixes the issue with SB 64, it cleans up the old TSPC language.

We anticipate there will be no fiscal impact as a result of this bill, and we have received support or statements of neutrality from several stakeholders.

The Board would be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding SB 64.