



## 104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB5430

Introduced 2/13/2026, by Rep. Marcus C. Evans, Jr.

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

225 ILCS 65/60-10

Amends the Nurse Practice Act. In provisions concerning registered professional nurse licensure by examination, provides that, prior to September 1, 2029 (rather than September 1, 2026), no professional nursing program shall be placed on probationary status for failing to reach a licensure examination passage rate of less than 75%.

LRB104 20632 AAS 34128 b

1 AN ACT concerning regulation.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Nurse Practice Act is amended by changing  
5 Section 60-10 as follows:

6 (225 ILCS 65/60-10)

7 (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2028)

8 Sec. 60-10. RN licensure by examination.

9 (a) Each applicant who successfully meets the requirements  
10 of this Section is eligible for licensure as a registered  
11 professional nurse.

12 (b) An applicant for licensure by examination to practice  
13 as a registered professional nurse is eligible for licensure  
14 when the following requirements are met:

15 (1) the applicant has submitted a completed written  
16 application, on forms provided by the Department, and  
17 fees, as established by the Department;

18 (2) the applicant has graduated from a professional  
19 nursing education program approved by the Department or  
20 has been granted a certificate of completion of  
21 pre-licensure requirements from another United States  
22 jurisdiction;

23 (3) the applicant has successfully completed a

1 licensure examination approved by the Department;

2 (4) (blank);

3 (5) the applicant has submitted to the criminal  
4 history records check required under Section 50-35 of this  
5 Act;

6 (6) the applicant has submitted, either to the  
7 Department or its designated testing service, a fee  
8 covering the cost of providing the examination; failure to  
9 appear for the examination on the scheduled date at the  
10 time and place specified after the applicant's application  
11 for examination has been received and acknowledged by the  
12 Department or the designated testing service shall result  
13 in the forfeiture of the examination fee; and

14 (7) the applicant has met all other requirements  
15 established by the Department by rule.

16 An applicant for licensure by examination may take the  
17 Department-approved examination in another jurisdiction.

18 (b-3) An applicant who graduates from a professional  
19 nursing program in this State on or after the effective date of  
20 this amendatory Act of the 103rd General Assembly and does not  
21 take the licensure examination within 180 days after his or  
22 her degree is conferred by the institution of higher education  
23 or fails the licensure examination for a second time shall be  
24 required to demonstrate proof of completion of a National  
25 Council Licensure Examination preparatory class or a  
26 comparable test preparatory program before taking a subsequent

1 licensure examination or the graduate may return to the  
2 institution of higher education from which he or she graduated  
3 which shall provide remedial educational resources to the  
4 graduate at no cost to the graduate. Such an applicant must  
5 contact the institution of higher education from which he or  
6 she graduated prior to retesting.

7 (b-4) All professional nursing programs in probationary  
8 status on the effective date of this amendatory Act of the  
9 103rd General Assembly and subject to a program revision plan  
10 shall be deemed in good standing for a period of 3 years  
11 beginning on the effective date of this amendatory Act of the  
12 103rd General Assembly. Prior to September 1, 2029 ~~2026~~, no  
13 professional nursing program shall be placed on probationary  
14 status for failing to reach a passage rate of less than 75%.

15 (b-5) If an applicant for licensure by examination  
16 neglects, fails, or refuses to take an examination or fails to  
17 pass an examination for a license within 3 years of the date of  
18 initial application, the application shall be denied. When an  
19 applicant's application is denied due to the failure to pass  
20 the examination within the 3-year period, that applicant must  
21 undertake an additional course of education as defined by rule  
22 prior to submitting a new application for licensure. Any new  
23 application must be accompanied by the required fee, evidence  
24 of meeting the requirements in force at the time of the new  
25 application, and evidence of completion of the additional  
26 course of education prescribed by rule.

1 (c) An applicant for licensure by examination shall have  
2 one year after the date of notification of the successful  
3 completion of the examination to apply to the Department for a  
4 license. If an applicant fails to apply within one year, the  
5 applicant shall be required to retake and pass the examination  
6 unless licensed in another jurisdiction of the United States.

7 (d) An applicant for licensure by examination who passes  
8 the Department-approved licensure examination for professional  
9 nursing may obtain employment as a license-pending registered  
10 nurse and practice under the direction of a registered  
11 professional nurse or an advanced practice registered nurse  
12 until such time as he or she receives his or her license to  
13 practice or until the license is denied. In no instance shall  
14 any such applicant practice or be employed in any management  
15 capacity. An individual may be employed as a license-pending  
16 registered nurse if all of the following criteria are met:

17 (1) He or she has completed and passed the  
18 Department-approved licensure exam and presents to the  
19 employer the official written notification indicating  
20 successful passage of the licensure examination.

21 (2) He or she has completed and submitted to the  
22 Department an application for licensure under this Section  
23 as a registered professional nurse.

24 (3) He or she has submitted the required licensure  
25 fee.

26 (4) He or she has met all other requirements

1 established by rule, including having submitted to a  
2 criminal history records check.

3 (e) The privilege to practice as a license-pending  
4 registered nurse shall terminate with the occurrence of any of  
5 the following:

6 (1) Six months have passed since the official date of  
7 passing the licensure exam as inscribed on the formal  
8 written notification indicating passage of the exam. The  
9 6-month license-pending period may be extended if more  
10 time is needed by the Department to process the licensure  
11 application.

12 (2) Receipt of the registered professional nurse  
13 license from the Department.

14 (3) Notification from the Department that the  
15 application for licensure has been refused.

16 (4) A request by the Department that the individual  
17 terminate practicing as a license-pending registered nurse  
18 until an official decision is made by the Department to  
19 grant or deny a registered professional nurse license.

20 (f) (Blank).

21 (g) (Blank).

22 (h) (Blank).

23 (i) (Blank).

24 (j) (Blank).

25 (k) All applicants for registered professional nurse  
26 licensure have 3 years after the date of application to

1 complete the application process. If the process has not been  
2 completed within 3 years after the date of application, the  
3 application shall be denied, the fee forfeited, and the  
4 applicant must reapply and meet the requirements in effect at  
5 the time of reapplication.

6 (l) All applicants for registered nurse licensure by  
7 examination who are graduates of practical nursing educational  
8 programs in a country other than the United States and its  
9 territories shall have their nursing education credentials  
10 evaluated by a Department-approved nursing credentialing  
11 evaluation service. No such applicant may be issued a license  
12 under this Act unless the applicant's program is deemed by the  
13 nursing credentialing evaluation service to be equivalent to a  
14 professional nursing education program approved by the  
15 Department. An applicant who has graduated from a nursing  
16 educational program outside of the United States or its  
17 territories and whose first language is not English shall  
18 submit evidence of English proficiency, as defined by rule.

19 (m) (Blank).

20 (Source: P.A. 103-533, eff. 1-1-24; 103-686, eff. 1-1-25.)