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**BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE - BPC**

**DIVISION 2. HEALING ARTS [500 - 4999.129]** ( *Division 2 enacted by Stats. 1937, Ch. 399.*  )

**CHAPTER 6. Nursing [2700 - 2838.4]** ( *Chapter 6 repealed and added by Stats. 1939, Ch. 807.*  )

**ARTICLE 6.5. Public Health Nurse Certification [2816 - 2820]** ( *Article 6.5 repealed and added by Stats. 1992, Ch. 1135, Sec. 2.8.*  )

**2816.** (a) The nonrefundable fee to be paid by a registered nurse for an evaluation of their qualifications to use the title "public health nurse" shall not be more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000). All fees payable under this section shall be collected by and paid to the Board of Registered Nursing Fund. It is the intention of the Legislature that the costs of carrying out the purposes of this article shall be covered by the revenue collected pursuant to this section. The board shall refund any registered nurse who paid more than three hundred dollars (\$300) for an evaluation of their qualifications to use the title "public health nurse" between April 5, 2018, and December 31, 2018.

(b) A public health nurse certificate is not subject to renewal.

(*Amended by Stats. 2024, Ch. 717, Sec. 1.5. (AB 2471) Effective January 1, 2025.*)

**2817.** The qualifications prescribed by the board under this article shall include a requirement that an applicant for employment as a public health nurse and all public health nurses employed on or after January 1, 1981, acquire training in child abuse and neglect detection.

(*Repealed and added by Stats. 1992, Ch. 1135, Sec. 2.8. Effective January 1, 1993.*)

**2818.** (a) The Legislature recognizes that public health nursing is a service of crucial importance for the health, safety, and sanitation of the population in all of California's communities. These services currently include, but are not limited to:

- (1) Control and prevention of communicable disease.
- (2) Promotion of maternal, child, and adolescent health.
- (3) Prevention of abuse and neglect of children, elders, and spouses.
- (4) Outreach screening, case management, resource coordination and assessment, and delivery and evaluation of care for individuals, families, and communities.

(b) The Legislature also finds that conflicting definitions of "public health nurse" have been created by various state and local agencies within California. The Legislature also finds that the public is harmed by the conflicting usage of the title "public health nurse" and lack of consistency between the use of the term and the qualifications required in state law and in administrative regulations. Therefore, the Legislature finds that the public interest would be served by determining the conditions for the legitimate use by registered nurses of a title which includes the term "public health nurse."

(c) No individual shall hold himself or herself out as a public health nurse or use a title which includes the term "public health nurse" unless that individual is in possession of a valid California public health nurse certificate issued pursuant to this article.

(d) No employer subject to regulation by Section 602 of the Health and Safety Code shall hold out any employee to be a public health nurse or grant a title to any employee including the term "public health nurse" unless that employee holds a valid California public health nurse certificate pursuant to this article.

(*Repealed and added by Stats. 1992, Ch. 1135, Sec. 2.8. Effective January 1, 1993.*)

**2819.** In order to effect a speedy and efficient transfer of public health nurse certification from the State Department of Health Services to the board, existing Sections 4500 to 4504, inclusive, of Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations shall be repealed by the State Department of Health Services and adopted by the board to place them in Chapter 14 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations, and any reference to the State Department of Health Services in those regulations shall be changed to refer to the board. The repeal of the regulations and adoption of the revised regulations pursuant to this section shall be exempt from the Administrative Procedure Act, Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, except that the repealed and adopted regulations shall be filed with the Office of Administrative Law for publication in the California Code of Regulations.

*(Repealed and added by Stats. 1992, Ch. 1135, Sec. 2.8. Effective January 1, 1993.)*

**2820.** Nothing in this article shall be construed as expanding the scope of practice of a registered nurse beyond that which is authorized under Section 2725.

*(Repealed and added by Stats. 1992, Ch. 1135, Sec. 2.8. Effective January 1, 1993.)*