

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 629 - SB 1014

March 22, 2015

SUMMARY OF BILL: Expands the definition of professional nursing to include administration of medications selected, ordered, or administered by an advanced practice nurse specializing as a certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA) during the perioperative period. The perioperative period is defined as the means of care of a patient commencing on the day prior to surgery and ending upon the discharge of the patient from post-anesthesia care. Adds to the current definition of “prescription order” in statute, effectively authorizing any CRNA to order, select, or administer appropriate drugs or related services, without a certificate of fitness, during the perioperative period or for services provided by a CRNA in collaboration with a physician that are within the scope of practice of the CRNA and authorized by the clinical privileges granted by the medical staff of the respective facility. An order by a CRNA for drugs, related services, or both drugs and related services is only valid for dispensing at the administration at the facility where the anesthesia services are being provided.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

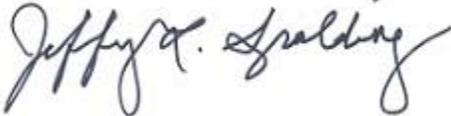
NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- CRNAs practice at the request of a surgeon or other physician to anesthetize the patient. The CRNA selects the appropriate drugs, dosage, and delivery based on the CRNA’s nursing assessment of the patient and CNRA monitors the patient throughout the perioperative period. CRNAs are considered to be practicing nursing and have no need to be supervised by a physician.
- Currently, CRNAs are not required by the Board of Nursing to hold a certificate of fitness when selecting and administering anesthesia to patients and practicing within their traditional role.
- This legislation effectively places the current practice of CRNAs in statute within the scope of the practice of nursing, but is not expected to significantly affect the certification process since these individuals are currently certified.
- Any necessary rule-making can be accomplished by the Board of Nursing at regularly scheduled board meetings at no additional cost.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-29-121, all health related boards are required to be self-supporting over any two-year period. The Board of Nursing had an annual surplus of \$1,823,653 in FY12-13, an annual surplus of \$1,168,922 in FY13-14, and a cumulative reserve balance of \$6,271,166 on June 30, 2014.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Jeffrey L. Spalding, Executive Director

/jdb