

SB222 INTRODUCED



1 SB222
2 528VM3M-1
3 By Senator Weaver
4 RFD: Healthcare
5 First Read: 19-Mar-24



SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, the Board of Nursing is responsible for the licensing and regulation of the nursing profession in the state.

This bill would authorize the board to provide financial assistance to licensees and applicants for licensing to defray the costs of certain mental and physical evaluations required by the board.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to the Board of Nursing; to amend Section 34-21-4, Code of Alabama 1975, to authorize the board to provide financial assistance to licensees and applicants for licensing to defray the costs of certain mental and physical evaluations required by the board; and to make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update existing code language to current style.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 34-21-4 of the Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

"§34-21-4



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(a) All funds and revenues of whatever kind authorized or collected under ~~the provisions of~~ this chapter or the ~~regulations~~ rules of the board shall be collected by the board and shall be handled in accordance with existing ~~regulations~~ rules and accounting procedures of state departments and deposited in the board's trust fund in the State Treasury. Disbursements and withdrawals of ~~such~~ the funds by the board shall be made in accordance with existing ~~regulations~~ rules and accounting procedures of state departments. The board shall pay all of its expenses from its own funds, and no expenses shall be borne by the State of Alabama from general funds of the state.

~~All the rights, duties, powers, and authority now or hereafter vested by law in the Board of Nurses' Examiners and Registration are hereby transferred to and vested in the Board of Nursing, and all rights, powers, duties, and authorities, whether clerical, executive, administrative, judicial, or quasi-judicial, now vested by law in the Board of Nurses' Examiners and Registration, shall be vested in the Board of Nursing hereby created and shall be exercised by it, together with any additional rights, powers, and authorities herein given or created by this chapter. The jurisdiction, functions, funds, effects, and personnel of the Board of Nurses' Examiners and Registration are hereby transferred to the Board of Nursing and covered with their current status. No unexpended funds of the Board of Nurses' Examiners and Registration or the Board of Nursing shall ever revert to the State of Alabama but shall remain the property of the Board of~~



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~~Nursing.~~

(b) The board may expend funds received from gifts and grants to provide financial assistance to defray the cost of evaluations for substance use disorder or mental or physical impairment for licensees or applicants for licensing, when an evaluation is required by a board order or board agreement, under terms, conditions, and limitations provided by rule, and may contract for, or otherwise make available, online counseling resources to licensees and applicants for licensing, under terms, conditions, and limitations provided by rule. Counseling and evaluation services provided pursuant to or funded pursuant to this subsection shall be provided by licensed practitioners who are approved by the board. The board may not exercise control over any recommendation made pursuant to an evaluation or any advice or recommendation provided pursuant to counseling provided by an approved licensed practitioner. Nothing in this subsection is intended to create a right in any licensee or applicant for licensing to any service or payment for any service. Nothing in this subdivision shall create a private right of action by a licensee or applicant for licensing against the board or any approved licensed practitioner whose services are provided or funded pursuant to this subsection."

Section 2. This act shall become effective on October 1, 2024.