

**First Regular Session  
Seventieth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**REVISED**

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted  
on Second Reading in the Second House*

LLS NO. 15-0864.02 Kristen Forrestal x4217

**SENATE BILL 15-197**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING THE PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY OF ADVANCED PRACTICE**  
102 **NURSES.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)*

Current law requires an advanced practice nurse to complete 1,800 hours of prescribing in a preceptorship and to complete 1,800 hours of prescribing in a mentorship in order to achieve full prescriptive authority. The bill reduces the requirement to achieve full prescriptive authority to 1,000 practice hours.

Current law requires a licensed physician to mentor an advanced

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.  
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

HOUSE  
2nd Reading Unamended  
April 10, 2015

SENATE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
March 19, 2015

SENATE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
March 18, 2015

practice nurse. The bill allows the role of mentor to be filled by an advanced practice nurse with prescriptive authority and the same role and population focus as the applicant.

Current law prescribes the applicant's interaction with the preceptor and the mentor. The bills allows synchronous remote collaboration during the mentorship.

Current law requires completion of 1,800 hours in a preceptorship to obtain provisional prescriptive authority. The bill allows provisional prescriptive authority upon graduation and passage of the certification examination.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2           **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-38-103, **add** (1.5)  
3 as follows:

4           **12-38-103. Definitions.** As used in this article, unless the context  
5 otherwise requires:

6           (1.5) "ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSE" MEANS AN ADVANCED  
7 PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE WHO IS A PROFESSIONAL NURSE AND IS  
8 LICENSED TO PRACTICE PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE, WHO OBTAINS  
9 SPECIALIZED EDUCATION OR TRAINING AS PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION, AND  
10 WHO APPLIES TO AND IS ACCEPTED BY THE BOARD FOR INCLUSION IN THE  
11 ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTRY.

12           **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-38-108, **amend**  
13 (1) (f) as follows:

14           **12-38-108. Powers and duties of the board - rules.** (1) The  
15 board has the following powers and duties:

16           (f) To provide by regulation for the legal recognition of nurse  
17 licensees from other states AND JURISDICTIONS;

18           **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-38-111.6, **amend**  
19 (3) (a), (4.5) (b) introductory portion, (4.5) (b) (I), (4.5) (b) (II)  
20 introductory portion, (4.5) (c) (I), (4.5) (d) (I),      (4.5) (e); **repeal** (4.5)

1 (a) (V) and (4.5) (f); and **add** (4.5) (a) (VI) and (4.5) (a) (VII) as follows:

2 **12-38-111.6. Prescriptive authority - advanced practice nurses**

3 **- rules.** (3) (a) An advanced practice nurse may be granted authority to  
4 prescribe prescription drugs and controlled substances to provide  
5 treatment to clients WITHIN THE ROLE AND POPULATION FOCUS OF THE  
6 ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSE.

7 (4.5) (a) On or after July 1, 2010, or, if the director of the division  
8 of professions and occupations adopts rules pursuant to subparagraph (H)  
9 of paragraph (f) of this subsection (4.5), on or after July 2, 2010, An

10 advanced practice nurse applying for prescriptive authority shall provide  
11 evidence to the board of the following:

12 (V) (A) ~~Completion of a mutually structured, post-graduate~~  
13 ~~preceptorship, as defined by the board by rule, consisting of not less than~~  
14 ~~one thousand eight hundred documented hours, to be completed within~~  
15 ~~the immediately preceding five-year period. The preceptorship shall be~~  
16 ~~conducted either with a physician or a physician and an advanced practice~~  
17 ~~nurse who has prescriptive authority and experience in prescribing~~  
18 ~~medications. The physician and, if applicable, advanced practice nurse~~  
19 ~~serving as a preceptor to the applicant shall be actively practicing in this~~  
20 ~~state and shall have education, training, experience, and active practice~~  
21 ~~that corresponds with the role and population focus of the applicant.~~

22 (B) ~~The physician and, if applicable, advanced practice nurse~~  
23 ~~serving as a preceptor shall not require payment or employment as a~~  
24 ~~condition of entering into the preceptorship relationship, but a preceptor~~  
25 ~~may request reimbursement of reasonable expenses and time spent as a~~  
26 ~~result of the preceptorship relationship.~~

27 (VI) INCLUSION ON THE ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTRY PURSUANT

1 TO SECTION 12-38-111.5; AND  
2 (VII) A SIGNED ATTESTATION THAT STATES HE OR SHE HAS  
3 COMPLETED AT LEAST THREE YEARS OF COMBINED CLINICAL WORK  
4 EXPERIENCE AS A PROFESSIONAL NURSE OR AS AN ADVANCED PRACTICE  
5 NURSE.

6 (b) Upon satisfaction of the requirements set forth in paragraph (a)  
7 of this subsection (4.5), the board may grant provisional prescriptive  
8 authority to an advanced practice nurse. The provisional prescriptive  
9 authority that is granted ~~shall be~~ IS limited to those patients and  
10 medications appropriate to the advanced practice nurse's role and  
11 population focus. In order to retain provisional prescriptive authority and  
12 obtain and retain full prescriptive authority pursuant to this subsection  
13 (4.5) for patients and medications appropriate for the advanced practice  
14 nurse's role and population focus, an advanced practice nurse shall satisfy  
15 the following requirements:

16 (I) (A) ~~Within five years after~~ ONCE the provisional prescriptive  
17 authority is granted, the advanced practice nurse ~~shall~~ MUST obtain ~~an~~  
18 ~~additional~~ one thousand ~~eight hundred~~ hours of documented experience  
19 in a mutually structured PRESCRIBING mentorship either with a physician  
20 or with ~~a physician and~~ AN advanced practice nurse who has FULL  
21 prescriptive authority and experience in prescribing medications. The  
22 ~~mentorship need not be with the same persons who provided the~~  
23 ~~preceptorship specified in subparagraph (V) of paragraph (a) of this~~  
24 ~~subsection (4.5), but the mentor shall~~ MUST be practicing in Colorado and  
25 have education, training, experience, and AN active practice that  
26 corresponds with the role and population focus of the advanced practice  
27 nurse.

1 (A.5) REMOTE COMMUNICATION WITH THE MENTOR IS PERMISSIBLE  
2 WITHIN THE MENTORSHIP AS LONG AS THE COMMUNICATION IS  
3 SYNCHRONOUS. SYNCHRONOUS COMMUNICATION DOES NOT INCLUDE  
4 COMMUNICATION BY EMAIL.

5 (B) The physician ~~and, if applicable,~~ OR advanced practice nurse  
6 serving as a mentor shall not require payment or employment as a  
7 condition of entering into the mentorship relationship, but the mentor may  
8 request reimbursement of reasonable expenses and time spent as a result  
9 of the mentorship relationship.

10 (C) Upon successful completion of the mentorship period, the  
11 mentor shall provide his or her signature AND ATTESTATION to verify that  
12 the advanced practice nurse has successfully completed the mentorship  
13 within the required period after the provisional prescriptive authority was  
14 granted.

15 (D) If an advanced practice nurse with provisional prescriptive  
16 authority fails to complete the mentorship required by this subparagraph  
17 (I) ~~within the specified period;~~ THREE YEARS OR OTHERWISE FAILS TO  
18 DEMONSTRATE COMPETENCE AS DETERMINED BY THE BOARD, the  
19 advanced practice nurse's provisional prescriptive authority expires for  
20 failure to comply with the statutory requirements.

21 (II) ~~Within five years after obtaining provisional prescriptive~~  
22 ~~authority;~~ The advanced practice nurse WITH PROVISIONAL PRESCRIPTIVE  
23 AUTHORITY shall develop an articulated plan for safe prescribing that  
24 documents how the advanced practice nurse intends to maintain ongoing  
25 collaboration with physicians and other health care professionals in  
26 connection with the advanced practice nurse's practice of prescribing  
27 medication within his or her role and population focus. The articulated

1 plan shall guide the advanced practice nurse's prescriptive practice. The  
2 physician or ~~physician and~~ advanced practice nurse that ~~mentored the~~  
3 ~~advanced practice nurse~~ SERVES AS A MENTOR as described in  
4 subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (b) shall provide his or her signature  
5 AND ATTESTATION ON THE ARTICULATED PLAN to verify that the advanced  
6 practice nurse has developed an articulated plan. The advanced practice  
7 nurse shall retain the articulated plan on file, shall review the plan  
8 annually, and shall update the plan as necessary. The articulated plan is  
9 subject to review by the board, and the advanced practice nurse shall  
10 provide the plan to the board upon request. If an advanced practice nurse  
11 with provisional prescriptive authority fails to develop the required  
12 articulated plan within ~~the specified period~~ THREE YEARS OR OTHERWISE  
13 FAILS TO DEMONSTRATE COMPETENCE AS DETERMINED BY THE BOARD, the  
14 advanced practice nurse's provisional prescriptive authority expires for  
15 failure to comply with the statutory requirements. An articulated plan  
16 developed pursuant to this subparagraph (II) ~~shall~~ MUST include at least  
17 the following:

18 (c) An advanced practice nurse who was granted prescriptive  
19 authority prior to July 1, 2010, shall satisfy the following requirements in  
20 order to retain prescriptive authority:

21 (I) (A) Except as provided in sub-subparagraph (B) of this  
22 subparagraph (I), no later than July 1, 2011, The advanced practice nurse  
23 shall develop an articulated plan as specified in subparagraph (II) of  
24 paragraph (b) of this subsection (4.5); except that to verify development  
25 of an articulated plan, the advanced practice nurse shall obtain the  
26 signature of either a physician or AN advanced practice nurse who has  
27 prescriptive authority and experience in prescribing medications, is

1 practicing in Colorado, and has education, training, experience, and active  
2 practice that corresponds with the role and population focus of the  
3 advanced practice nurse developing the plan. ~~If an advanced practice  
4 nurse with prescriptive authority granted prior to July 1, 2010, fails to  
5 develop the required articulated plan within the specified period, the  
6 advanced practice nurse's prescriptive authority expires for failure to  
7 comply with the statutory requirements.~~

8 (B) ~~The board shall extend the deadline for an advanced practice  
9 nurse to develop an articulated plan if the advanced practice nurse  
10 satisfies the requirements of this sub-subparagraph (B), but in no event  
11 shall the board extend the deadline beyond September 30, 2012. Prior to  
12 September 30, 2012, an advanced practice nurse seeking a deadline  
13 extension shall submit to the board an application, the required fee, a  
14 signed verification that he or she developed an articulated plan by, or had  
15 an existing collaborative agreement with a physician on, July 1, 2011, and  
16 any other information or documentation required by the board.~~

17 (d) ~~(f)~~ ~~On or after July 1, 2010, or, if the director of the division  
18 of professions and occupations adopts rules pursuant to subparagraph (H)  
19 of paragraph (f) of this subsection (4.5), on or after July 2, 2010, IN  
20 ORDER TO OBTAIN PROVISIONAL PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY AND OBTAIN  
21 AND RETAIN FULL PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY IN THIS STATE, an advanced  
22 practice nurse who has obtained prescriptive authority from another state  
23 may obtain provisional prescriptive authority in this state the advanced  
24 practice nurse satisfies the following requirements: ANOTHER STATE  
25 MUST MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION 12-38-111.6 OR  
26 SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT REQUIREMENTS, AS DETERMINED BY THE  
27 BOARD.~~

1           ~~(A) The advanced practice nurse satisfies the requirements of~~  
2           ~~subparagraphs (I), (II), (III), and (IV) of paragraph (a) of this subsection~~  
3           ~~(4.5); and~~

4           ~~(B) The advanced practice nurse has three thousand six hundred~~  
5           ~~hours of documented experience prescribing medications without~~  
6           ~~significant adverse prescribing issues, as determined by the board.~~

7           ~~(H) Once an advanced practice nurse with prescriptive authority~~  
8           ~~from another state obtains provisional prescriptive authority in this state,~~  
9           ~~the advanced practice nurse shall satisfy the following requirements in~~  
10           ~~order to obtain and maintain full prescriptive authority in this state:~~

11           ~~(A) Within one year after obtaining provisional prescriptive~~  
12           ~~authority in this state, the advanced practice nurse shall develop an~~  
13           ~~articulated plan, as described in subparagraph (I) of paragraph (c) of this~~  
14           ~~subsection (4.5); except that, if the advanced practice nurse with~~  
15           ~~prescriptive authority from another state fails to develop the required~~  
16           ~~articulated plan within the specified period, the advanced practice nurse's~~  
17           ~~provisional prescriptive authority expires for failure to comply with the~~  
18           ~~statutory requirements; and~~

19           ~~(B) The advanced practice nurse shall maintain national~~  
20           ~~certification, as specified in subparagraph (III) of paragraph (a) of this~~  
21           ~~subsection (4.5), unless the board grants an exception.~~

22           (e) ~~During the second year of implementation of this subsection~~  
23           ~~(4.5) and rules adopted pursuant to paragraph (f) of this subsection (4.5);~~  
24           The board shall conduct random audits of articulated plans to ensure  
25           THAT the plans satisfy the requirements of this subsection (4.5) and rules  
26           adopted pursuant to paragraph (f) of this subsection (4.5) BY THE BOARD.

27           ~~(f) (I) Except as provided in subparagraph (II) of this paragraph~~



1 (f), the board shall adopt rules to implement this subsection (4.5), which  
2 rules shall take effect on July 1, 2010. The board shall consider the  
3 recommendations of the nurse-physician advisory task force for Colorado  
4 health care submitted in accordance with section 24-34-109, C.R.S.,  
5 concerning prescriptive authority of advanced practice nurses. The rules  
6 shall be complementary to rules adopted by the Colorado medical board  
7 pursuant to section 12-36-106.4.

8 (H) (A) ~~The director of the division of professions and~~  
9 ~~occupations in the department of regulatory agencies shall review the~~  
10 ~~rules adopted by the board pursuant to this paragraph (f) prior to the~~  
11 ~~effective date of the rules to determine if the rules complement the rules~~  
12 ~~of the Colorado medical board. If the director determines that the rules of~~  
13 ~~the two boards are not complementary, the director shall adopt rules that~~  
14 ~~supersede and replace the rules of the two boards regarding prescriptive~~  
15 ~~authority of advanced practice nurses and collaboration between~~  
16 ~~advanced practice nurses and physicians, and such THE rules shall take~~  
17 ~~effect on July 2, 2010.~~

18 (B) ~~If the director determines that the two boards have adopted~~  
19 ~~complementary rules regarding the prescriptive authority of advanced~~  
20 ~~practice nurses and collaboration between advanced practice nurses and~~  
21 ~~physicians, the director shall not adopt rules that supersede and replace~~  
22 ~~the rules of the two boards, but the director shall review any amendments~~  
23 ~~to those rules by either board to ensure that the rules remain~~  
24 ~~complementary. If the director determines that an amendment to the rules~~  
25 ~~by the state board of nursing or the Colorado medical board results in~~  
26 ~~rules on prescriptive authority and collaboration that are no longer~~  
27 ~~complementary, the amendment shall not take effect.~~

1           **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-38-111.5, **repeal**  
2 (2); and amend (5) as follows:

3           **12-38-111.5. Requirements for advanced practice nurse**  
4 **registration - legislative declaration - definition - advanced practice**  
5 **registry.** (2) ~~As used in this section, "advanced practice nurse" means a~~  
6 ~~professional nurse who is licensed to practice pursuant to this article, who~~  
7 ~~obtains specialized education or training as provided in this section, and~~  
8 ~~who applies to and is accepted by the board for inclusion in the advanced~~  
9 ~~practice registry.~~

10           (5) A nurse who meets the definition of advanced practice nurse,  
11 as defined in subsection (2) of this section 12-38-103, and the  
12 requirements of section 12-38-111.6, may be granted prescriptive  
13 authority as a function in addition to those defined in section 12-38-103  
14 (10).

15           **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-36-106.4, **amend**  
16 (1) (a) introductory portion and (1) (b); and **repeal** (4) as follows:

17           **12-36-106.4. Collaboration with advanced practice nurses**  
18 **with prescriptive authority - mentorships - board rules.** (1) (a) A  
19 physician licensed pursuant to this article may, and is encouraged to,  
20 serve as a ~~preceptor or~~ mentor to an advanced practice nurse who is  
21 applying for prescriptive authority pursuant to section 12-38-111.6 (4.5).  
22 A physician who serves as a ~~preceptor or~~ mentor to an advanced practice  
23 nurse seeking prescriptive authority shall:

24           (b) A physician serving as a ~~preceptor or~~ mentor to an advanced  
25 practice nurse pursuant to section 12-38-111.6 (4.5) shall not require  
26 payment or employment as a condition of entering into the ~~preceptorship~~  
27 ~~or~~ mentorship relationship, but the physician may request reimbursement

1 of reasonable expenses and time spent as a result of the ~~preceptorship or~~  
2 ~~mentorship relationship.~~

3 (4) (a) ~~Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection (4),~~  
4 ~~the board shall adopt rules to implement this section, which rules shall~~  
5 ~~take effect on July 1, 2010. The board shall consider the~~  
6 ~~recommendations of the nurse-physician advisory task force for Colorado~~  
7 ~~health care submitted in accordance with section 24-34-109, C.R.S.,~~  
8 ~~concerning the role of physicians in collaborating with advanced practice~~  
9 ~~nurses with prescriptive authority. The rules shall be complementary to~~  
10 ~~rules adopted by the state board of nursing pursuant to section~~  
11 ~~12-38-111.6 (4.5) (f) (I).~~

12 (b) (I) ~~The director of the division of professions and occupations~~  
13 ~~in the department of regulatory agencies shall review the rules adopted by~~  
14 ~~the board pursuant to this subsection (4) to determine if the rules~~  
15 ~~complement the rules of the state board of nursing. If the director~~  
16 ~~determines that the rules of the two boards are not complementary, the~~  
17 ~~director shall adopt rules that supersede and replace the rules of the two~~  
18 ~~boards regarding prescriptive authority of advanced practice nurses and~~  
19 ~~collaboration between advanced practice nurses and physicians, and such~~  
20 ~~rules shall take effect on July 2, 2010.~~

21 (H) ~~If the director determines that the two boards have adopted~~  
22 ~~complementary rules regarding the prescriptive authority of advanced~~  
23 ~~practice nurses and collaboration between advanced practice nurses and~~  
24 ~~physicians, the director shall not adopt rules that supersede and replace~~  
25 ~~the rules of the two boards, but the director shall review any amendments~~  
26 ~~to those rules by either board to ensure that the rules remain~~  
27 ~~complementary. If the director determines that an amendment to the rules~~

1 ~~by the Colorado medical board or the state board of nursing results in~~  
2 ~~rules on prescriptive authority and collaboration that are no longer~~  
3 ~~complementary, the amendment shall not take effect.~~

4           **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-38-117, **add** (1)  
5 (bb) as follows:

6           **12-38-117. Grounds for discipline.** (1) "Grounds for discipline",  
7 as used in this article, means any action by any person who:

8           (bb) HAS VERIFIED BY SIGNATURE THE ARTICULATED PLAN  
9 DEVELOPED BY AN ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSE PURSUANT TO SECTIONS  
10 12-36-106.4 AND 12-38-111.6 (4.5) IF THE ARTICULATED PLAN FAILS TO  
11 COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 12-38-111.6 (4.5) (b) (II);

12           **SECTION 7. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
13 takes effect September 1, 2015; except that, if a referendum petition is  
14 filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against  
15 this act or an item, section, or part of this act within the ninety-day period  
16 after final adjournment of the general assembly, then the act, item,  
17 section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the  
18 general election to be held in November 2016 and, in such case, will take  
19 effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the  
20 governor.