

Kansas State Board of Nursing

Weekly Update

June 26, 2020

The mission of the Board of Nursing is to assure the citizens of Kansas safe and competent practice by nurses and mental health technicians



There are licensing requirements that must be met before a license can be issued which includes information that must be reviewed and processed. Due to the high volume of applications and information KSBN is receiving that must be reviewed and processed, processing times may be longer than usual. Please continue to check your application checklist as we will update it as information is processed. It slows processing times when staff must respond to numerous emails and phone calls as to whether a piece of information has been received and processed. Another important reminder, licenses are issued on an individual basis and times may differ for each applicant. **Agency staff are working diligently to process applications and required information.** We want to get applicants licensed as soon as possible. Due to social distancing requirements, we must limit the number in our lobby to no more than 2 at a time. **It is highly recommended that you conduct your business with the Board of Nursing via online services, mail, phone call or email or by making an appointment (785-296-2967).** There is a secure drop box located outside of the agency that is available for anyone to drop off documents for the Board of Nursing. KSBN NO longer performs fingerprinting services in the agency. There is a [list of the sites with contact information on our website](#). Please assure you are bringing the information required at that site. The majority of staff continue to telework to decrease possible exposure. The best way to contact them is via their email. You may find our direct agency contacts information listed under [Staff Directory](#) on our website. Please continue to follow our website and social media [[Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)] and our [COVID-19 Information Center](#) for agency updates and frequently asked questions. This update reviews information about the extension of the licensure expiration dates and HB 2016:

- **Executive Order No 20-39 that extends the expiration date of nursing licenses will expire on 6/30/2020. Nurses who have licenses that were to expire in March, April, May and June 2020 must have their licenses renewed by September 28, 2020. Those licenses will lapse if not renewed by that date.** The mandatory continuing education requirement must be met at the time of renewal.
- **House Bill No. 2016:** Passed by the Legislature in the Special Session of 2020 and signed by Governor Kelly with an effective date of 6/9/2020. This act concerns the governmental response to the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic in Kansas. **It contains provisions that impact nurses supporting a healthcare facility's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which may not be all nurses.** Here is a brief overview of the provisions that pertain to nurses that meet the criteria:
 - ◇ The state of disaster emergency continues in existence from March 12, 2020 through September 15, 2020
 - ◇ APRNs employed to support a facility's response to the COVID-19 pandemic may work as necessary without direction and supervision from a responsible physician. A RNA may work as necessary to support the facility's response to the pandemic without direction and supervision from a physician (**expires 1/26/2021**)
 - ◇ RNs or LPNs may order the collection of throat or nasopharyngeal swab specimens from individual suspected of being infected by COVID-19 for the purposes of testing (**expires 1/26/2021**)
 - ◇ LPNs may provide healthcare services appropriate to their education, training and experience when employed or contracted to work to support the facility's response to the pandemic without direction from a RN (**expires 1/26/2021**)
 - ◇ RNs or LPNs who hold a license that is exempt or inactive or whose license has lapsed within the past five years may provide healthcare services appropriate to their education, training and experience (**expires 1/26/2021**)
 - ◇ Allows a registered nurse who is serving in the military to volunteer or work within a facility in roles that are appropriate to their education, training and experience (**expires 1/26/2021**)
 - ◇ A nurse licensed and in good standing in another state may practice as a nurse in the state of Kansas (**expires 1/26/2021**)
 - ◇ Nurses meeting the requirements of this act may have their license reinstated within five years of lapse without the requirements of continuing education and payment of a fee. **Nurses wanting this provision will be given a temporary license that expires on 1/26/2021.** After that date, the nurse may apply for reinstatement of license and meet the requirements of reinstatement.
 - ◇ **As a reminder, all these provisions impact nurses supporting a healthcare facility's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which may not be all nurses.** There is further explanation of these provisions and a link to HB 2016 on our website.

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