

Coalition for Advancement of Nursing Education

NEW YORK STATE GOVERNOR CUOMO SIGNS LEGISLATION TO STRENGTHEN EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR FUTURE REGISTERED NURSES

On December 18, 2017, Governor Andrew Cuomo signed legislation (S6768/A1842B) that requires future registered nurse (RN) graduates of associate degree and diploma nursing programs to finish a baccalaureate completion program in nursing within ten years after initial licensure in New York State. Sponsored by Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan and Assembly Majority Leader Joseph Morelle in 2005, the bill was based on groundbreaking nursing research, since replicated in other countries, that demonstrates the significant positive impact of baccalaureate education on the health outcomes of patients and clients receiving nursing care.

This evidence-based educational mandate supports baccalaureate RN preparation to meet increasingly complex health care needs of the residents of New York State:

- Future graduates of diploma or associate degree nursing programs have up to ten years to finish a baccalaureate completion program.
- Extensions for extenuating circumstances are part of the regulations.
- All currently licensed RNs, nursing students enrolled in diploma or associate degree programs, or applicants on a waitlist for a nursing program, would be "grand parented" and their licenses forever protected from this mandatory additional educational requirement.
- RNs not meeting the requirement will have their licenses placed on 'Hold' (a policy currently used by the State Education Department for licensees not meeting continuing education requirement in other licensed professions).

Diploma and associate degree nursing programs are maintained as entry points into the nursing profession but the newly enacted legislation recognizes that additional education makes a difference in the skill and competence of RNs. Articulation between associate and baccalaureate degree nursing programs and the variety of options for advanced placement and distance learning assure capacity after implementation of the law without disadvantaging newly-licensed RNs.

This legislation establishes a commission to assess barriers to entry in the nursing field and make recommendations for additional strategies to increase the availability and accessibility of baccalaureate completion nursing programs.

This legislation will take effect immediately and the requirement that nurses obtain a baccalaureate degree in nursing within 10 years of licensure shall take effect in June 2020, thirty months after this legislation became law.

Kim Sharpe, MSN, RN, President

Council of Associate Degree Nursing in New York State, Inc.:

“The Council supports the BS in 10 law...it recognizes and values the contributions of associate degree graduates...as educators we have always encouraged our graduates to continue their education to the BSN degree and beyond. RN/BS completion programs are readily accessible in both online and adult education formats. This law further expands the strengths of our graduates to meet the increasingly complex healthcare needs of the residents of New York State. The Council is confident that Associate Degree nursing programs in New York State will continue to provide high quality curricula that successfully prepare a diverse pool of graduates for both entry to professional RN practice and seamless academic progression.”

M. Bridget Nettleton PhD, RN, CNE, President

NYS Council of Deans of Baccalaureate and Higher Degree in Nursing Programs:

“The Council recognizes this historic event and applauds the signing of the BS in 10 legislation into NYS law by Governor Cuomo. This is wonderful news for the residents of New York State and the entire nursing profession.”

ANA President Pam Cipriano, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN

American Nurses Association:

“The American Nurses Association extends congratulations to ANA-New York and to all who worked to make the law a reality. Since a BS-prepared nursing workforce is linked to better patient outcomes, this law is something every nurse can celebrate.”

Elisa A. Mancuso MS, RNC-NIC, FNS, AE-C, President

ANA-NY:

“This is an historic moment for nursing and New York State is leading the way to make sure all nurses provide the highest quality and safest care to patients and families. This law facilitates a pipeline of nurses who can go on to advanced studies to be the nursing faculty and leaders of the future.”

Bea Grause, RN, JD, President

Hospital Association of New York State (HANYS):

“This new law provides an important roadmap to the most effective strategies to improve the safety and quality of patient care. Research shows that higher proportions of nurses educated at the BS level or higher have resulted in improved patient outcomes.”

Ann Harrington, BSN, RN, BA, MPA, NEA-BC, Executive Director

Joanne Ritter-Teitel, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, President

New York Organization of Nursing Executives and Leaders (NYONEL):

“As nurse leaders, we support advancing Registered Nurse education ... Residents will be better cared for in their homes, expensive hospitalizations can be avoided, and – as validated by research – health outcomes will improve. Registered Nurses will have the same academic credentials in every practice setting... and baccalaureate preparation will assure that RN’s are able to move into nursing faculty, nurse practitioner and administrative positions to continue to advance the profession.”

Joan Shinkus Clark, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, CENP, FACHE, FAAN, President

American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE):

“AONE is a long-time champion of baccalaureate education for the nursing profession. Nursing education plays a critical role in ensuring quality and patient safety. Passing this landmark legislation into law helps ensure the nursing workforce is prepared to meet the complex health care challenges of tomorrow.”

**Linda H. Aiken, PhD, FAAN, FRCN, The Claire M. Fagin Leadership Professor of Nursing,
Professor of Sociology, Director, Center for Health Outcomes and Policy Research
University of Pennsylvania,**

Dr Aiken is the author of the seminal research that demonstrated the statistical significance of BS-educated RNs on the health outcomes of patients: “Congratulations to all of the nurses in New York who have worked for many years to pass this much needed legislation. This is evidence-based policy making at its best using research to promote the public’s interest. I admire the persistence of New York nurses and congratulate them.”

Barbara Zittel, PhD, RN

Claire Murray, MS, RN

Coalition for Advancement of Nursing Education (CANE):

“In December 2003, the New York State Board for Nursing unanimously approved a motion recommending this statutory change...CANE, an affiliation of over 600 organizations representing educators, managers, researchers, and registered nurses in clinical & specialty practice, was organized to accept this challenge.

Assembly Majority Leader Joseph Morelle, the original Assembly bill sponsor, and Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan, Senate bill sponsor, provided steadfast support, commitment and legislative expertise in navigating this bill to its passage.

Governor Cuomo signed this important legislation that will have a significant impact on improving the state’s healthcare system by decreasing health care complications, saving patients’ lives, and decreasing health care costs.”

On Behalf of the BS in 10 Steering Committee:

New York Organization of Nurse Executives and Leaders:

Kimberly S. Glassman, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN, Senior Vice President, Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer, NYU Langone Health, Associate Dean of Partnership Innovation NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing

Ann Harrington, BSN, RN, BA, MPA, NEA-BC, Executive Director, NYONEL

Claire Murray, MS, RN, Immediate Past NYONEL Executive Director

Tom Nolan, RN, MS NEA-BC, Senior Director, Nursing, NYU Langone Hospital – Brooklyn

Joanne Ritter-Teitel, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, President, NYONEL, Chief Nursing Officer

Orange Regional Medical Center, Greater Hudson Valley Health System, Middletown

American Nurses Association-New York:

Karen A. Ballard, MA, RN, FAAN, Immediate Past Executive Director of ANA-NY

Marilyn Dollinger, DNS, FNP, RN, Executive Associate Dean, St. John Fisher College, NYONEL Policy Committee and ANA-NY Legislation Committee Chair

Elisa A. Mancuso, RNC-NIC, MS, FNS, AE-C, President ANA-New York Professor, Suffolk County Community College

Jeanine Santelli, PhD, RN, AGPCNP-BC, FAAN, Executive Director, ANA-NY

Coalition for Advancement of Nursing Education:

Dianne Cooney Miner, PhD RN FAAN, Founding Dean and Professor Wegmans School of Nursing, Associate VP Community Engagement St. John Fisher College

M. Bridget Nettleton PhD, RN, CNE, President, NYS Council of Deans of Baccalaureate and Higher Degree in Nursing Programs, Dean of the School of Nursing and Allied Health at SUNY Empire State College

Kim Sharpe, MSN, RN, President, Council of Associate Degree Nursing in New York State, Inc.

Barbara Zittel, PhD, RN