

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF NURSING

SUBJECT: Full Independent Practice Credentialing Committee, 17 CAR pt. 130

DESCRIPTION: The Department of Health, Arkansas State Board of Nursing proposes amendments to its Full Independent Practice Credentialing Committee rules, 17 CAR pt. 130:

Throughout Part 130

Purpose

To add Clinical Nurse Specialists to the Full Independent Practice Credentialing Committee Rules pursuant to Act 872 of 2023.

Background

Act 872 of 2023 expanded Full Independent Practice to Clinical Nurse Specialists. The subsequent amendment to the board's rules regarding the Full Independent Practice Credentialing Committee was inadvertently left off the 2023 set of rule changes and are being included with the 2025 group of rule changes to add Clinical Nurse Specialists along with Nurse Practitioner.

Key Points

Nurse Practitioners were originally granted a path for full independent practice in the Full Independent Practice Credentialing Committee Act. Clinical Nurse Specialists were inadvertently left out of the original act. They were added by Act 872 of 2023.

Discussion

The amendments comply with Act 872 of 2023.

Subdivision 201(a)(5)(A)(ii)(b)(3)

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To replace “nurse practitioner” with the term “applicant” and remove the word “nurse.”

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Key Points

The amendments comply with Act 872 of 2023.

Discussion

The amendments comply with Act 872 of 2023.

PUBLIC COMMENT: A public hearing was not held on this matter. The public comment period expired March 13, 2026. The agency indicated that it received no public comments.

The proposed effective date is pending legislative review and approval.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: The agency has indicated that the rule has no financial impact.

LEGAL AUTHORIZATION: The Arkansas State Board of Nursing shall have the power and responsibility to promulgate whatever rules it deems necessary for the implementation of Arkansas Code Title 17, Chapter 87, concerning nurses. *See* Arkansas Code § 17-87-203(1)(A).

The proposed rule implements Act 872 of 2023, sponsored by Senator Kim Hammer, which allows full independent practice authority for clinical nurse specialists, and allows experience in another state to qualify.

**QUESTIONNAIRE FOR FILING PROPOSED RULES WITH
THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

DEPARTMENT _____
 BOARD/COMMISSION _____
 BOARD/COMMISSION DIRECTOR _____
 CONTACT PERSON _____
 ADDRESS _____
 PHONE NO. _____ EMAIL _____
 NAME OF PRESENTER(S) AT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING _____
 PRESENTER EMAIL(S) _____

INSTRUCTIONS

In order to file a proposed rule for legislative review and approval, please submit this Legislative Questionnaire and Financial Impact Statement, and attach (1) a summary of the rule, describing what the rule does, the rule changes being proposed, and the reason for those changes; (2) both a markup and clean copy of the rule; and (3) all documents required by the Questionnaire.

If the rule is being filed for permanent promulgation, please email these items to the attention of Rebecca Miller-Rice, miller-ricer@blr.arkansas.gov, for submission to the Administrative Rules Subcommittee.

If the rule is being filed for emergency promulgation, please email these items to the attention of Director Marty Garrity, garritym@blr.arkansas.gov, for submission to the Executive Subcommittee.

Please answer each question completely using layman terms.

1. What is the official title of this rule?

2. What is the subject of the proposed rule? _____
3. Is this rule being filed under the emergency provisions of the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act? Yes No

If yes, please attach the statement required by Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-204(c)(1).

If yes, will this emergency rule be promulgated under the permanent provisions of the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act? Yes No

4. Is this rule being filed for permanent promulgation? Yes No

If yes, was this rule previously reviewed and approved under the emergency provisions of the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act? Yes No

If yes, what was the effective date of the emergency rule? _____

On what date does the emergency rule expire? _____

5. Is this rule required to comply with a *federal* statute, rule, or regulation? Yes No

If yes, please provide the federal statute, rule, and/or regulation citation.

6. Is this rule required to comply with a *state* statute or rule? Yes No

If yes, please provide the state statute and/or rule citation.

7. Are two (2) rules being repealed in accord with Executive Order 23-02? Yes No

If yes, please list the rules being repealed.

If no, please explain.

8. Is this a new rule? Yes No

Does this repeal an existing rule? Yes No

If yes, the proposed repeal should be designated by strikethrough. If it is being replaced with a new rule, please attach both the proposed rule to be repealed and the replacement rule.

Is this an amendment to an existing rule? Yes No

If yes, all changes should be indicated by strikethrough and underline. In addition, please be sure to label the markup copy clearly as the markup.

9. What is the state law that grants the agency its rulemaking authority for the proposed rule, outside of the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act? Please provide the specific Arkansas Code citation(s), including subsection(s).

10. Is the proposed rule the result of any recent legislation by the Arkansas General Assembly?
Yes No

If yes, please provide the year of the act(s) and act number(s).

11. What is the reason for this proposed rule? Why is it necessary?

12. Please provide the web address by which the proposed rule can be accessed by the public as provided in Ark. Code Ann. § 25-19-108(b)(1).

13. Will a public hearing be held on this proposed rule? Yes No

If yes, please complete the following:

Date: _____

Time: _____

Place: _____

Please be sure to advise Bureau Staff if this information changes for any reason.

14. On what date does the public comment period expire for the permanent promulgation of the rule? Please provide the specific date. _____

15. What is the proposed effective date for this rule? _____

16. Please attach (1) a copy of the notice required under Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-204(a)(1) and (2) proof of the publication of that notice.

17. Please attach proof of filing the rule with the Secretary of State, as required by Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-204(e)(1)(A).

18. Please give the names of persons, groups, or organizations that you anticipate will comment on these rules. Please also provide their position (for or against), if known.

19. Is the rule expected to be controversial? Yes No

If yes, please explain.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

PLEASE ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS COMPLETELY.

DEPARTMENT _____
BOARD/COMMISSION _____
PERSON COMPLETING THIS STATEMENT _____
TELEPHONE NO. _____ **EMAIL** _____

To comply with Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-204(e), please complete the Financial Impact Statement and email it with the questionnaire, summary, markup and clean copy of the rule, and other documents. Please attach additional pages, if necessary.

TITLE OF THIS RULE _____

1. Does this proposed, amended, or repealed rule have a financial impact?
 Yes No

2. Is the rule based on the best reasonably obtainable scientific, technical, economic, or other evidence and information available concerning the need for, consequences of, and alternatives to the rule?
 Yes No

3. In consideration of the alternatives to this rule, was this rule determined by the agency to be the least costly rule considered? Yes No

If no, please explain:

(a) how the additional benefits of the more costly rule justify its additional cost;

(b) the reason for adoption of the more costly rule;

(c) whether the reason for adoption of the more costly rule is based on the interests of public health, safety, or welfare, and if so, how; and

(d) whether the reason for adoption of the more costly rule is within the scope of the agency’s statutory authority, and if so, how.

4. If the purpose of this rule is to implement a *federal* rule or regulation, please state the following:

(a) What is the cost to implement the federal rule or regulation?

Current Fiscal Year

General Revenue _____
Federal Funds _____
Cash Funds _____
Special Revenue _____
Other (Identify) _____

Total _____

Next Fiscal Year

General Revenue _____
Federal Funds _____
Cash Funds _____
Special Revenue _____
Other (Identify) _____

Total _____

(b) What is the additional cost of the state rule?

Current Fiscal Year

General Revenue _____
Federal Funds _____
Cash Funds _____
Special Revenue _____
Other (Identify) _____

Total _____

Next Fiscal Year

General Revenue _____
Federal Funds _____
Cash Funds _____
Special Revenue _____
Other (Identify) _____

Total _____

5. What is the total estimated cost by fiscal year to any private individual, private entity, or private business subject to the proposed, amended, or repealed rule? Please identify those subject to the rule, and explain how they are affected.

Current Fiscal Year

\$ _____

Next Fiscal Year

\$ _____

6. What is the total estimated cost by fiscal year to a state, county, or municipal government to implement this rule? Is this the cost of the program or grant? Please explain how the government is affected.

Current Fiscal Year

\$ _____

Next Fiscal Year

\$ _____

7. With respect to the agency's answers to Questions #5 and #6 above, is there a new or increased cost or obligation of at least one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) per year to a private individual, private entity, private business, state government, county government, municipal government, or to two (2) or more of those entities combined?

Yes No

If yes, the agency is required by Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-204(e)(4) to file written findings at the time of filing the financial impact statement. The written findings shall be filed simultaneously with the financial impact statement and shall include, without limitation, the following:

- (1) a statement of the rule's basis and purpose;
- (2) the problem the agency seeks to address with the proposed rule, including a statement of whether a rule is required by statute;
- (3) a description of the factual evidence that:
 - (a) justifies the agency's need for the proposed rule; and
 - (b) describes how the benefits of the rule meet the relevant statutory objectives and justify the rule's costs;
- (4) a list of less costly alternatives to the proposed rule and the reasons why the alternatives do not adequately address the problem to be solved by the proposed rule;
- (5) a list of alternatives to the proposed rule that were suggested as a result of public comment and the reasons why the alternatives do not adequately address the problem to be solved by the proposed rule;
- (6) a statement of whether existing rules have created or contributed to the problem the agency seeks to address with the proposed rule and, if existing rules have created or contributed to the problem, an explanation of why amendment or repeal of the rule creating or contributing to the problem is not a sufficient response; and
- (7) an agency plan for review of the rule no less than every ten (10) years to determine whether, based upon the evidence, there remains a need for the rule including, without limitation, whether:
 - (a) the rule is achieving the statutory objectives;
 - (b) the benefits of the rule continue to justify its costs; and
 - (c) the rule can be amended or repealed to reduce costs while continuing to achieve the statutory objectives.



Rule Revision

17 CAR Part 130. Full Independent Practice Credentialing Committee.

Throughout Part 130

PURPOSE

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RECEIVED

By Arkansas Secretary of State at 12:35 pm, Feb 09, 2026

ARKANSAS REGISTER

Proposed Rule Cover Sheet



Secretary of State
Cole Jester

500 Woodlane Street, Suite 026
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-1094
(501) 682-5070
www.sos.arkansas.gov



Name of Department _____

Agency or Division Name _____

Other Subdivision or Department, If Applicable _____

Previous Agency Name, If Applicable _____

Contact Person _____

Contact E-mail _____

Contact Phone _____

Name of Rule _____

Newspaper Name _____

Date of Publishing _____

Final Date for Public Comment _____

Location and Time of Public Meeting _____



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NO FINANCIAL IMPACT ANTICIPATED


For Publication: Notice of Public Comment Period for Amended Rules

From Christine Lewis <Christine.Lewis@arkansas.gov>

Date Mon 2/9/2026 9:55 AM

To legalads@arkansasonline.com <legalads@arkansasonline.com>

Cc Ashley Davis, PhD., RN <Ashley.Davis@arkansas.gov>; Matt Gilmore <Matt.Gilmore@arkansas.gov>; David Dawson, JD <David.Dawson@arkansas.gov>

 1 attachment (236 KB)

Notice Via Dem Gaz.17CARpt120,121,122,123,124,126,127,130,131.pdf;

Please run the attached Notice of Amended Rules as shown in Memorandum for three (3) consecutive days beginning Wednesday, February 11, 2026, and confirm receipt and scheduled publication by emailing Christine.Lewis@arkansas.gov.

Thank you for your assistance.



Christine Lewis

Executive Assistant

Nursing Board | ADH

e: Christine.Lewis@arkansas.gov

t: 501-686-2704

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Arkansas Department of Health

Arkansas State Board of Nursing

1123 S. University Ave., #800 • Little Rock, AR 72204
(501) 686-2700 • Fax (501) 686-2714

MEMORANDUM

TO: Legal Notices
Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

VIA EMAIL: legalads@arkansasonline.com

FROM: Christine Lewis, Executive Assistant to the Director

DATE: February 9, 2026

RE: Legal Notice

Please run the following ad for three (3) consecutive days, beginning Wednesday, February 11, 2026.

NOTICE OF AMENDED RULES ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF NURSING

On Wednesday, February 11, 2026, the Arkansas State Board of Nursing (ASBN) will begin the thirty-day public comment period regarding the proposed revisions to the following:

ASBN Rules:

- 17 CAR pt. 120 General Provisions
- 17 CAR pt. 121 Licensure: Registered Nurse, Licensed Practical Nurse, and Licensed Psychiatric Technician Nurse
- 17 CAR pt. 122 Registered Nurse Practitioner
- 17 CAR pt. 123 Advanced Practice Registered Nurse
- 17 CAR pt. 124 Delegation
- 17 CAR pt. 126 Rules of Procedure
- 17 CAR pt. 127 Certified Medication Assistant or Medication Assistant-Certified
- 17 CAR pt. 130 Full Independent Practice Credentialing Committee
- 17 CAR pt. 131 Dialysis Patient Care Technicians

Copies of the proposed *Rules* are available at the ASBN office or you may view them at <https://healthy.arkansas.gov/boards-commissions/boards/nursing-arkansas-state-board/laws-rules/>. Written comments should be submitted to the Director, Arkansas State Board of Nursing, 1123 South University Ave.; Suite 800, Little Rock, AR 72204; no later than **Friday, March 13, 2026**.

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Re: For Publication: Notice of Public Comment Period for Amended Rules

From Legal Ads <legalads@arkansasonline.com>
Date Tue 2/10/2026 9:26 AM
To Christine Lewis <Christine.Lewis@arkansas.gov>

Scheduled for Wed 2/11, Thurs 2/12, and Fri 2/13.

Thank you.

Gregg Sterne, Legal Advertising
Arkansas Democrat-Gazette
legalads@arkansasonline.com

From: "Christine Lewis" <Christine.Lewis@arkansas.gov>
To: "legalads" <legalads@arkansasonline.com>
Cc: "Ashley Davis, PhD., RN" <Ashley.Davis@arkansas.gov>, "Matt Gilmore" <Matt.Gilmore@arkansas.gov>, "David Dawson, JD" <David.Dawson@arkansas.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 9:55:29 AM
Subject: For Publication: Notice of Public Comment Period for Amended Rules

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Proposed Rulemaking

Title

Promulgated by:
Arkansas State Board of Nursing

Title 17. Professions, Occupations, and Businesses

Chapter XXII. Arkansas State Board of Nursing, Department of Health

Subchapter A. Generally

Part 130. Full Independent Practice Credentialing Committee

Subpart 1. General Matters

17 CAR § 130-101. Purpose.

The purpose of the Full Independent Practice Credentialing Committee is to review and act on:

- (1) Applications for full independent practice authority submitted by certified nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists; and
- (2) Complaints filed against certified nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists who have full independent practice authority.

17 CAR § 130-102. Definitions.

As used in this part:

- (1) "Certified nurse practitioner" means a registered nurse who:
 - (A) Has successfully completed a nationally accredited graduate or postgraduate APRN education program that prepares nurses for the advanced practice role of nurse practitioner;
 - (B) Is nationally certified in the population foci appropriate to the educational preparation; and

DRAFT

06/12/2025 10:06:55 AM

- (C) Is licensed at the advanced practice level;
- (2) "Clinical nurse specialist" means a registered nurse who:
 - (A) Has successfully completed a nationally accredited graduate or post-graduate APRN education program that prepares nurses for the advanced practice role of clinical nurse specialist;
 - (B) Is nationally certified in the population foci appropriate to the educational preparation; and
 - (C) Is licensed at the advanced practice level;
- (3) "Full independent practice authority" means the ability of a certified nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist to practice with prescriptive authority without a collaborative practice agreement as described in Arkansas Code § 17-87-310; and
- (4) "Prescriptive authority" means the ability to receive and prescribe drugs, medicines, or therapeutic devices appropriate to the advanced practice registered nurse's area of practice.

17 CAR § 130-103. Meeting.

- (a) The Full Independent Practice Credentialing Committee shall:
 - (1) Meet at least quarterly; and
 - (2) Have the power to call and hold special meetings at such times and places as it deems necessary.
- (b) Five (5) members shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the committee.

17 CAR § 130-104. Members.

The Full Independent Practice Credentialing Committee shall be composed of eight (8) members appointed according to Arkansas Code § 17-87-314 who may serve up to two (2) three-year terms, or until a successor is appointed.

17 CAR § 130-105. Officers.

- (a) The Full Independent Practice Credentialing Committee shall elect a chair and a vice chair.

(b) Officers may serve no more than two (2) consecutive one-year terms.

(c) Powers and duties of the chair:

(1) Sign subpoenas;

(2) Administer oaths;

(3) Authenticate all notices and other actions of the committee; and

(4) Issue notices of hearings and other processes and as directed by the

committee.

(d) The vice chair shall assume all duties and privileges of the chair in the absence of the chair.

17 CAR § 130-106. Duties.

(a) Review all applications, initial or renewal, for full independent practice authority submitted by certified nurse practitioners or clinical nurse specialists licensed by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing.

(b)(1) Approve or deny applications for full independent practice authority.

(2) All actions shall be provided, in writing, to the applicant.

(3) Denial of an application shall include the reason or reasons for denial.

(c)(1) Review complaints filed in writing against certified nurse practitioners or clinical nurse specialists with full independent practice authority.

(2) The Full Independent Practice Credentialing Committee shall review complaints against certified nurse practitioners or clinical nurse specialists who hold a certificate of full independent practice authority.

(3)(A) The committee may take action, suspend, or revoke the certificate for full independent practice authority based on the complaint.

(B) However, the committee may not take action against the nursing license of a certified nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist.

(d) All complaints and actions shall be reported to the board.

17 CAR § 130-107. Hearings.

(a) Hearings will be conducted when the Full Independent Practice Credentialing Committee takes action to suspend or revoke the certificate of full independent practice authority.

(b) Hearings will be conducted according to the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act, Arkansas Code § 25-15-201 et seq.

(c) The certified nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist will be provided ten (10) days' notice, in writing, to appear before the committee.

17 CAR § 130-108. Appeal.

If a certified nurse practitioner's or clinical nurse specialist's certificate of full independent practice authority is denied, suspended, or revoked they may appeal the action of the Full Independent Practice Credentialing Committee under the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act, Arkansas Code § 25-15-201 et seq.

17 CAR § 130-109. Reports.

(a) A quarterly report will be provided to the:

- (1) Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor; and
- (2) House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor.

(b) The report will contain, at a minimum, the number of applicants approved and denied a certificate of independent practice authority.

Subpart 2. Qualifications for Full Independent Practice Authority — Fees

17 CAR § 130-201. Qualifications for full independent practice authority.

(a) Initial:

- (1) Submission of an application for full independent practice authority;
- (2) Submission of two (2) letters of recommendation;
- (3) Hold an active, unencumbered Arkansas certified nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist license;

(4) Hold an unencumbered prescriptive authority certificate or equivalent in the state of licensure;

(5) Submission of documentation showing a minimum of six thousand two hundred forty (6,240) hours of practice:

(A)(i) Under a board-required agreement with a physician.

(ii) Such documentation shall include:

(a)(1) An affidavit from a collaborating physician attesting to the number of hours the certified nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist practiced under a collaborative practice agreement with the physician.

(2) Multiple attestations are acceptable; or

(b)(1) Other evidence of meeting the qualifications for full independent practice and an affidavit signed by the nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist, in the event a collaborating physician has died, become disabled, retired, relocated to another state, or any other circumstance that inhibits the ability of the ~~nurse~~ practitioner from obtaining an affidavit.

(2) Other evidence may include employment records, military service, Medicare or Medicaid reimbursement records, or other similar records that verify clinical practice in the population foci for which the nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist is licensed and certified.

(3) The burden shall be on the ~~nurse practitioner~~ applicant to provide sufficient evidence to support the ~~nurse~~ practitioner's inability to obtain an affidavit from a collaborating physician; or

(B) In another state, territory, or foreign country that authorizes a certified nurse practitioner or a clinical nurse specialist to practice with prescriptive authority if the certified nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist provides proof of:

(i) Holding prescriptive authority in the state; and

(ii) The APRN license is in good standing; and

(6) Submission of any other relevant documents requested by the committee in support of the application.

(b) Renewal:

DRAFT

(1) The certificate for full independent practice authority shall be renewed every three (3) years by submitting the required application and corresponding fee; and

(2) Renewal applicants must hold an active, unencumbered Arkansas certified nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist license.

17 CAR § 130-202. Fees.

(a) The Full Independent Practice Credentialing Committee shall establish fees for services relating to:

(1) Application for full independent practice authority; and

(2) Renewal of the full independent practice certificate.

(b) The initial application fee shall be one hundred fifty dollars (\$150).

(c) The certificate renewal fee shall be fifty dollars (\$50.00).

(d) All funds received shall be deposited into the State Treasury to the credit of the committee.

(e) Fees paid shall be by credit card.

(f) Fees paid are processing fees and are not refundable.