

1 S.163

2 Introduced by Senator White

3 Referred to Committee on Health and Welfare

4 Date: January 6, 2026

5 Subject: Health; hospitals; advanced practice registered nurses

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to amend  
7 statutes relating to hospital licensure and to hospital patients' rights to specify  
8 that an advanced practice registered nurse may be the health care professional  
9 responsible for a hospital patient's care.

10 ~~An act relating to the role of advanced practice registered nurses in hospital~~  
11 ~~care.~~

*An act relating to the role of advanced practice providers in hospital care*

12

13 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

14 ~~Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 1851 is amended to read:~~

15 § 1851. DEFINITIONS

16 As used in this subchapter:

17 (1) “Advanced practice registered nurse” or “APRN” means an  
18 individual licensed under 26 V.S.A. chapter 28, subchapter 2.

19 (2) “Hospital” means a hospital required to be licensed under chapter 43  
20 of this title.

1 ~~(2)(3) "Patient" means a person an individual admitted to a hospital on~~  
2 ~~an inpatient basis.~~

3 ~~(1) "Physician" means an individual licensed under 26 V.S.A. chapter~~  
4 ~~23 or 33.~~

5 Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 1852 is amended to read:

6 § 1852. PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS; ADOPTION

7 (a) The General Assembly hereby adopts the "Bill of Rights for Hospital  
8 Patients" as follows:

9 (1) The patient has the right to considerate and respectful care at all  
10 times and under all circumstances with recognition of ~~his or her~~ the patient's  
11 personal dignity.

12 ~~(2) The patient shall have an attending physician or APRN who is~~  
13 ~~responsible for coordinating a the patient's care. Physician consultation and~~  
14 ~~support shall be available to an attending APRN at all times in accordance~~  
15 ~~with applicable standards of practice and regulatory requirements.~~

*(2) The patient shall have an attending physician or APRN who is  
responsible for coordinating ~~a~~ the patient's care.*

16 (3) The patient has the right to obtain, from the physician or APRN  
17 coordinating ~~his or her~~ the patient's care, complete and current information  
18 concerning diagnosis, treatment, and any known prognosis in terms the patient  
19 can reasonably be expected to understand. If the patient consents or if the  
20 ~~patient is incompetent or unable to understand, immediate family members or~~

1 ~~guardian may also obtain this information. The patient has the right to know~~  
2 by name the attending physician or APRN primarily responsible for  
3 coordinating ~~his or her~~ the patient's care.

4 (4) Except in emergencies, the patient has the right to receive from the  
5 patient's physician or APRN information necessary to give informed consent  
6 prior to the start of any procedure or treatment, or both. Such information for  
7 informed consent should include the specific procedure or treatment, or both;  
8 the medically significant risks involved; and the probable duration of  
9 incapacitation. Where medically significant alternatives for care or treatment  
10 exist, or when the patient requests information concerning medical  
11 alternatives, the patient has the right to such information. The patient also has  
12 the right to know the name of the person responsible for the procedures or  
13 treatment, or both.

14 \* \* \*

15 (7) The patient has the right to expect that all communications and  
16 records pertaining to ~~his or her~~ the patient's care shall be treated as  
17 confidential. Only medical personnel, or individuals under the supervision of  
18 medical personnel, directly treating the patient, or those persons monitoring  
19 the quality of that treatment, or researching the effectiveness of that treatment,  
20 shall have access to the patient's medical records. Others may have access to  
21 ~~these records only with the patient's written authorization.~~

1 \* \* \*

2 (9) The patient has the right to know the identity and professional status  
3 of individuals providing service to ~~him or her~~ the patient and to know which  
4 physician, APRN, or other practitioner is primarily responsible for ~~his or her~~  
5 the patient's care. This includes the patient's right to know of the existence of  
6 any professional relationship among individuals who are treating ~~him or her~~  
7 the patient, as well as the relationship to any other health care or educational  
8 institutions involved in ~~his or her~~ the patient's care.

9 \* \* \*

10 (11) The patient has the right to expect reasonable continuity of care.  
11 The patient has the right to be informed by the attending physician or APRN  
12 of any continuing health care requirements following discharge.

13 \* \* \*

14 (13) The patient has the right to know what hospital rules and  
15 regulations apply to ~~his or her~~ the patient's conduct as a patient.

16 \* \* \*

17 (b) Failure to comply with any provision of this section may constitute a  
18 basis for disciplinary action against a physician under 26 V.S.A. chapter 23 or  
19 33 or against an APRN under 26 V.S.A. chapter 28. A complaint may be filed  
20 with the Board of Medical Practice or the Office of Professional Regulation as  
21 applicable based on the license held by the practitioner

1 ~~(c) A summary of the hospital's obligations under this section, written in~~  
2 clear language and in easily readable print, shall be distributed to patients upon  
3 admission and posted conspicuously at each nurse's station. Such notice shall  
4 also indicate that as an alternative or in addition to the hospital's complaint  
5 procedures, the patient may directly contact the licensing agency, the Office of  
6 Professional Regulation, or the Board of Medical Practice, as applicable. The  
7 address and telephone number of the licensing agency, the Office of  
8 Professional Regulation, and the Board of Medical Practice shall be included  
9 in the notice.

10 Sec. 3. 18 V.S.A. § 1905 is amended to read:

11 § 1905. LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

12 Upon receipt of an application for a license and the license fee, the  
13 licensing agency shall issue a license when it determines that the applicant and  
14 hospital facilities meet the following minimum standards:

15 \* \* \*

16 (5) All patients admitted to the hospital shall be under the care of a State  
17 registered and licensed practicing physician as defined by the laws of the State  
18 of Vermont physician licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 23 or 33 or an  
19 advanced practice registered nurse licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 28,  
20 subchapter 2. All hospitals shall use the uniform credentialing application  
21 form described in subsection 9408a(b) of this title

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(8) Professional case records shall be compiled for all patients and signed by the attending physician or advanced practice registered nurse. These records shall be kept on file for a minimum of 10 years.

\* \* \*

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

~~This act shall take effect on passage.~~

*Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 1851 is amended to read:*

*§ 1851. DEFINITIONS*

*As used in this subchapter:*

*(1) “Advanced practice registered nurse” or “APRN” means an individual licensed under 26 V.S.A. chapter 28, subchapter 2.*

*(2) “Hospital” means a hospital required to be licensed under chapter 43 of this title.*

*(2)(3) “Patient” means a person an individual admitted to a hospital on an inpatient basis.*

*(4) “Physician” means an individual licensed under 26 V.S.A. chapter 23 or 33.*

*(5) “Physician assistant” means an individual licensed under 26 V.S.A. chapter 31.*

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*(2) The patient shall have an attending physician, physician assistant, or APRN who is responsible for coordinating a the patient’s care.*

(3) *The patient has the right to obtain, from the physician, physician assistant, or APRN coordinating ~~his or her~~ the patient's care, complete and current information concerning diagnosis, treatment, and any known prognosis in terms the patient can reasonably be expected to understand. If the patient consents or if the patient is incompetent or unable to understand, immediate family members or a guardian may also obtain this information. The patient has the right to know by name the attending physician, physician assistant, or APRN primarily responsible for coordinating ~~his or her~~ the patient's care.*

(4) *Except in emergencies, the patient has the right to receive from the patient's physician, physician assistant, or APRN information necessary to give informed consent prior to the start of any procedure or treatment, or both. Such information for informed consent should include the specific procedure or treatment, or both; the medically significant risks involved; and the probable duration of incapacitation. Where medically significant alternatives for care or treatment exist, or when the patient requests information concerning medical alternatives, the patient has the right to such information. The patient also has the right to know the name of the person responsible for the procedures or treatment, or both.*

\* \* \*

(7) *The patient has the right to expect that all communications and records pertaining to ~~his or her~~ the patient's care shall be treated as confidential. Only medical personnel, or individuals under the supervision of medical personnel, directly treating the patient, or those persons monitoring the quality of that treatment, or researching the effectiveness of that treatment, shall have access to the patient's medical records. Others may have access to those records only with the patient's written authorization.*

\* \* \*

(9) *The patient has the right to know the identity and professional status of individuals providing service to ~~him or her~~ the patient and to know which physician, physician assistant, APRN, or other practitioner is primarily responsible for ~~his or her~~ the patient's care. This includes the patient's right to know of the existence of any professional relationship among individuals who are treating ~~him or her~~ the patient, as well as the relationship to any other health care or educational institutions involved in ~~his or her~~ the patient's care.*

\* \* \*

(11) *The patient has the right to expect reasonable continuity of care. The patient has the right to be informed by the attending physician, physician assistant, or APRN of any continuing health care requirements following discharge.*

\* \* \*

(13) *The patient has the right to know what hospital rules and regulations apply to ~~his or her~~ the patient's conduct as a patient.*

\* \* \*

(b) *Failure to comply with any provision of this section may constitute a basis for disciplinary action against a physician under 26 V.S.A. chapter 23 or 33, against a physician assistant under 26 V.S.A. chapter 31, or against an APRN under 26 V.S.A. chapter 28. A complaint may be filed with the Board of Medical Practice or the Office of Professional Regulation as applicable based on the license held by the practitioner.*

(c) *A summary of the hospital's obligations under this section, written in clear language and in easily readable print, shall be distributed to patients upon admission and posted conspicuously at each nurse's station. Such notice shall also indicate that as an alternative or in addition to the hospital's complaint procedures, the patient may directly contact the licensing agency, the Office of Professional Regulation, or the Board of Medical Practice, as applicable. The address and telephone number of the licensing agency, the Office of Professional Regulation, and the Board of Medical Practice shall be included in the notice.*

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(5) *All patients admitted to the hospital shall be under the care of a ~~State-registered and licensed practicing physician as defined by the laws of the State of Vermont~~ physician licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 23 or 33, a physician assistant licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 31, or an advanced practice registered nurse licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 28, subchapter 2. All hospitals shall use the uniform credentialing application form described in subsection 9408a(b) of this title.*

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(8) *Professional case records shall be compiled for all patients and signed by the attending physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse. These records shall be kept on file for a minimum of 10 years.*

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