

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

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

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

14 § 1851. DEFINITIONS

15 As used in this subchapter:

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

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

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

3 (4) “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

1 patient is incompetent or unable to understand, immediate family members or
2 a guardian may also obtain this information. The patient has the right to know
3 by name the attending physician or APRN primarily responsible for
4 coordinating ~~his or her~~ the patient's care.

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

15 * * *

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

1 shall have access to the patient's medical records. Others may have access to
2 those records only with the patient's written authorization.

3 * * *

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

11 * * *

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

15 * * *

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

18 * * *

19 (b) Failure to comply with any provision of this section may constitute a
20 basis for disciplinary action against a physician under 26 V.S.A. chapter 23 or
21 33 or against an APRN under 26 V.S.A. chapter 28. A complaint may be filed

1 with the Board of Medical Practice or the Office of Professional Regulation as
2 applicable based on the license held by the practitioner.

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

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

13 § 1905. LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

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

17 * * *

18 (5) All patients admitted to the hospital shall be under the care of a State
19 ~~registered and licensed practicing physician as defined by the laws of the State~~
20 ~~of Vermont~~ physician licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 23 or 33 or an
21 advanced practice registered nurse licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 28,

1 subchapter 2. All hospitals shall use the uniform credentialing application
2 form described in subsection 9408a(b) of this title.

3 * * *

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

7 * * *

8 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

9 This act shall take effect on passage.