

THE FLORIDA SENATE  
2015 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED  
**Committee on Health Policy**

**CS/CS/HB 335 — Psychiatric Nurses**

by Health and Human Services Committee; Health Quality Subcommittee; and Reps. Plasencia, Campbell, and others (CS/SB 476 by Health Policy Committee and Senator Grimsley)

The bill revises the definition of a psychiatric nurse under the Florida Mental Health Act, also known as, the Baker Act. A psychiatric nurse must be an advanced registered nurse practitioner who has an advanced degree in psychiatric nursing, holds a national advanced practice certification as a psychiatric-mental health advanced practice nurse, and has 2 years of post-master's clinical experience under the supervision of a physician.

A psychiatric nurse is authorized to examine a patient for whom involuntary examination has been initiated at a receiving facility under the Baker Act. The bill authorizes a psychiatric nurse to release a patient from involuntary examination in a receiving facility only if the receiving facility is owned or operated by a hospital or health system and the psychiatric nurse is performing within the framework of an established protocol with a psychiatrist.

A psychiatric nurse is authorized to release a patient whose involuntary examination was initiated by a psychiatrist only upon approval by that psychiatrist.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2015.

*Vote: Senate 39-0; House 116-2*