

**By** the Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services;  
the Committee on Health Policy; and Senators Sharief, Osgood,  
Davis, Rouson, and Berman

603-02824-26

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A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to the use of professional nursing  
titles; amending s. 464.015, F.S.; providing that  
licensed advanced practice registered nurses who hold  
specified degrees may use titles and abbreviations  
associated with those degrees in a specified manner;  
prohibiting such persons from holding themselves out  
to patients or prospective patients as a doctor in  
advertising without also clearly denoting their  
licensed profession; providing for disciplinary  
action; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsections (8) and (10) of section 464.015,  
Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

464.015 Titles and abbreviations; restrictions; penalty.—

(8) Only persons who hold valid licenses to practice as  
advanced practice registered nurses in this state may use the  
title "Advanced Practice Registered Nurse" and the abbreviation  
"A.P.R.N."

(a) A licensed advanced practice registered nurse who also  
holds a Doctor of Philosophy degree or a Doctor of Nursing  
Practice degree may use the title "Doctor of Philosophy" and the  
abbreviation "Ph.D.," or the title "Doctor of Nursing Practice"  
and the abbreviation "D.N.P.," respectively, in a manner  
consistent with the doctoral degree such person holds.

(b) A person authorized under paragraph (a) to use a title  
or abbreviation associated with a doctoral degree in a clinical

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30 setting may not hold himself or herself out as a doctor to  
31 patients or prospective patients in advertising produced  
32 directly by the practitioner, including signage or written  
33 communication, using such title or abbreviation without also  
34 clearly denoting his or her licensed profession.

35 (10) A violation of this section is a misdemeanor of the  
36 first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s.  
37 775.083, except for violations of paragraph (8)(a) or paragraph  
38 (8)(b). Violations of paragraph (8)(a) or paragraph (8)(b)  
39 constitute grounds for disciplinary action under s.  
40 464.018(1)(o).

41 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.