

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.