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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- NURSES

Introduced By: Senators Ciccone, Burke, Famiglietti, Raptakis, and Tikoian

Date Introduced: April 03, 2026

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 5-34 of the General Laws entitled "Nurses" is hereby amended by
2 adding thereto the following section:

3 **5-34-3.1. Safe administration of sedation.**

4 (a) Registered nurses (RNs) and advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), other than
5 licensed certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs), as defined in this chapter, and RNs
6 enrolled in a nurse anesthesiology training program approved by the Council on Accreditation of
7 Nurse Anesthesia Educational programs (COA) or its predecessors or successors, shall not
8 administer medications classified as general anesthetics for any elective procedure.

9 (b) For critical life-saving situations requiring the immediate and emergent facilitation of
10 airway management (rapid sequence intubation) or to maintain sedation for tracheally intubated
11 and mechanically ventilated patients, an RN acting under the direct supervision of a licensed APRN
12 or physician, or an APRN may initiate, titrate, and bolus intravenous/intraosseous (IV/IO) agents.
13 An APRN, may initiate, titrate, and bolus intravenous/intraosseous (IV/IO) agents if the APRN is
14 trained in airway management and acting within their scope of practice and approved by their
15 governing body, as authorized in this section.

16 (c) For emergency situations, the APRN or RN can administer anesthetic medications to
17 preserve patient life including, but not limited to, cardiac arrest, and respiratory failure, acting
18 within their scope of practice and approved by their governing body.

19 (d) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the administration and/or titration of drugs

1 classified as general anesthetics for patients being sedated in a critical care setting (emergency
2 room, intensive care unit) by an RN or APRN acting within the scope of practice and approved by
3 their governing body.

4 SECTION 2. Chapter 5-34.2 of the General Laws entitled "Nurse Anesthetists" is hereby
5 amended by adding thereto the following section:

6 **5-34.2-2.1. Safe administration of sedation.**

7 (a) Registered nurses (RNs) and advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), other than
8 licensed certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs), as defined in this chapter, and RNs
9 enrolled in a nurse anesthesiology training program approved by the Council on Accreditation of
10 Nurse Anesthesia Educational programs (COA) or its predecessors or successors, shall not
11 administer medications classified as general anesthetics for any elective procedure.

12 (b) For critical life-saving situations requiring the immediate and emergent facilitation of
13 airway management (rapid sequence intubation) or to maintain sedation for tracheally intubated
14 and mechanically ventilated patients, an RN acting the under the direct supervision of a licensed
15 APRN or physician, or an APRN may initiate, titrate, and bolus intravenous/intraosseous (IV/IO)
16 agents. An APRN, may initiate, titrate, and bolus intravenous/intraosseous (IV/IO) agents if the
17 APRN is trained in airway management and acting within their scope of practice and approved by
18 their governing body, as authorized in this section.

19 (c) For emergency situations, the APRN or RN can administer anesthetic medications to
20 preserve patient life including, but not limited to, cardiac arrest, and respiratory failure, acting
21 within their scope of practice and approved by their governing body.

22 (d) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the administration and/or titration of drugs
23 classified as general anesthetics for patients being sedated in a critical care setting (emergency
24 room, intensive care unit) by an RN or APRN acting within the scope of practice and approved by
25 their governing body.

26 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- NURSES

1 This act would establish that the elective and/or independent administration of propofol,
2 Etomidate, sodium thiopental, methohexital, and volatile anesthetics for any surgery or procedure
3 is not, generally, within the “scope of practice” of registered nurses and non-CRNA advanced
4 practice registered nurses as defined in chapter 34.3 of title 5 and would restrict the administration
5 of these medications to licensed certified registered nurse anesthetists. It would also detail each of
6 those limited emergency circumstances where a registered nurse and advanced practice registered
7 nurses, may safely administer anesthesia, such as critical life-saving or emergency situations where
8 there is an imminent threat to life or limb. This act would detail each of those limited emergency
9 circumstances where registered nurses and advanced practice registered nurses, may safely
10 administer anesthesia, such as critical life-saving or emergency situations where there is an
11 imminent threat to life or limb.

12 This act would take effect upon passage.

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