

# HOUSE BILL 276

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CF 2lr1978

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By: **Delegate Cullison**

Introduced and read first time: January 17, 2022

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Occupations – Clinical Nurse Specialists – Prescribing Authority**

3 FOR the purpose of defining “clinical nurse specialist” and “practice as a clinical nurse  
4 specialist” for the purpose of authorizing clinical nurse specialists to prescribe drugs  
5 and durable medical equipment under regulations adopted by the State Board of  
6 Nursing; altering the definition of “authorized prescriber” for purposes of the  
7 Maryland Pharmacy Act to include clinical nurse specialists; authorizing a licensed  
8 physician to personally prepare and dispense a prescription written by a clinical  
9 nurse specialist; and generally relating to the prescription authority of clinical nurse  
10 specialists.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
12 Article – Health Occupations  
13 Section 8–101(a) and (b)  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2021 Replacement Volume)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
17 Article – Health Occupations  
18 Section 8–508(a)(2)(ii), 12–101(b), and 12–102(c)(2)(iv)2.  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (2021 Replacement Volume)

21 BY adding to  
22 Article – Health Occupations  
23 Section 8–514  
24 Annotated Code of Maryland  
25 (2021 Replacement Volume)

26 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
27 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



**Article – Health Occupations**

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2 8–101.

3 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

4 (b) “Advanced practice registered nurse” means an individual who:

5 (1) (i) Is licensed by the Board to practice registered nursing; or

6 (ii) Has a multistate licensure privilege to practice registered  
7 nursing under the Nurse Licensure Compact; and

8 (2) Is certified by the Board to practice as:

9 (i) A nurse practitioner;

10 (ii) A nurse anesthetist;

11 (iii) A nurse midwife; or

12 (iv) A clinical nurse specialist.

13 8–508.

14 (a) (2) “Nurse practitioner” means a registered nurse who is:

15 (ii) Authorized to prescribe drugs under regulations adopted by the  
16 [State] Board [of Nursing].17 **8–514.**18 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**  
19 **INDICATED.**20 **(2) “CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALIST” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS:**21 **(I) LICENSED BY THE BOARD TO PRACTICE REGISTERED**  
22 **NURSING;**23 **(II) CERTIFIED BY THE BOARD TO PRACTICE AS A CLINICAL**  
24 **NURSE SPECIALIST; AND**25 **(III) AUTHORIZED TO PRESCRIBE DRUGS AND DURABLE**  
26 **MEDICAL EQUIPMENT UNDER REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD.**

1           **(3) (I) “PRACTICE AS A CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALIST” MEANS TO:**  
2                           **1. PROVIDE DIRECT CARE TO PATIENTS WITH COMPLEX**  
3 **NEEDS;**  
4                           **2. ACT AS A CONSULTANT TO ANOTHER HEALTH CARE**  
5 **PROVIDER AS NEEDED;**  
6                           **3. CONDUCT HEALTH-RELATED RESEARCH; AND**  
7                           **4. PROVIDE EDUCATION AND GUIDANCE FOR STAFF**  
8 **NURSES.**

9                           **(II) “PRACTICE AS A CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALIST” INCLUDES:**  
10                           **1. ORDERING, PERFORMING, AND INTERPRETING**  
11 **LABORATORY AND DIAGNOSTIC TESTS;**  
12                           **2. PRESCRIBING DRUGS AND DURABLE MEDICAL**  
13 **EQUIPMENT AS PROVIDED UNDER PARAGRAPH (2)(III) OF THIS SUBSECTION;**  
14                           **3. ORDERING HOME HEALTH AND HOSPICE CARE; AND**  
15                           **4. INITIATING, MONITORING, AND ALTERING**  
16 **APPROPRIATE THERAPIES OR TREATMENTS.**

17           **(B) PRACTICE AS A CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALIST IS GOVERNED BY RULES**  
18 **AND REGULATIONS THAT ARE ADOPTED UNDER § 8-205 OF THIS TITLE AND THAT**  
19 **CONCERN ADDITIONAL ACTS IN THE PRACTICE OF REGISTERED NURSING.**

20 12-101.

21           (b) “Authorized prescriber” means any licensed dentist, licensed dental hygienist  
22 with prescriptive authority under § 4-206.4 of this article, licensed physician, licensed  
23 podiatrist, licensed veterinarian, advanced practice **REGISTERED** nurse with prescriptive  
24 authority under § 8-508 **OR § 8-514** of this article, or other individual authorized by law  
25 to prescribe prescription or nonprescription drugs or devices.

26 12-102.

27           (c) (2) This title does not prohibit:

1 (iv) A licensed physician who complies with the requirements of item  
2 (ii) of this paragraph from personally preparing and dispensing a prescription written by:

3 2. [A nurse practitioner who is authorized to practice under  
4 Title 8, Subtitle 3] **AN ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE WITH**  
5 **PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY UNDER § 8-508 OR § 8-514** of this article and is working  
6 with the physician in the same office setting; or

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
8 October 1, 2022.