

AN ACT

To amend sections 4723.06, 4723.28, 4723.35, 5101.47, 5101.54, and 5160.47 and to enact sections 5160.29, 5160.291, 5160.292, and 5160.293 of the Revised Code regarding eligibility and benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance program and the Medicaid program and the use of the term substance abuse disorder in statutes regarding the Board of Nursing.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio:

SECTION 1. That sections 4723.06, 4723.28, 4723.35, 5101.47, 5101.54, and 5160.47 be amended and sections 5160.29, 5160.291, 5160.292, and 5160.293 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:

Sec. 4723.06. (A) The board of nursing shall:

(1) Administer and enforce the provisions of this chapter, including the taking of disciplinary action for violations of section 4723.28 of the Revised Code, any other provisions of this chapter, or rules adopted under this chapter;

(2) Develop criteria that an applicant must meet to be eligible to sit for the examination for licensure to practice as a registered nurse or as a licensed practical nurse;

(3) Issue and renew nursing licenses, dialysis technician certificates, and community health worker certificates, as provided in this chapter;

(4) Define the minimum educational standards for the schools and programs of registered nursing and practical nursing in this state;

(5) Survey, inspect, and grant full approval to prelicensure nursing education programs in this state that meet the standards established by rules adopted under section 4723.07 of the Revised Code. Prelicensure nursing education programs include, but are not limited to, diploma, associate degree, baccalaureate degree, master's degree, and doctor of nursing programs leading to initial licensure to practice nursing as a registered nurse and practical nurse programs leading to initial licensure to practice nursing as a licensed practical nurse.

(6) Grant conditional approval, by a vote of a quorum of the board, to a new prelicensure nursing education program or a program that is being reestablished after having ceased to operate, if the program meets and maintains the minimum standards of the board established by rules adopted under section 4723.07 of the Revised Code. If the board does not grant conditional approval, it shall hold an adjudication under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code to consider conditional approval of the program. If the board grants conditional approval, at the first meeting following completion of the survey process required by division (A)(5) of this section, the board shall determine whether to grant full approval to the program. If the board does not grant full approval or if it appears that the program has failed to meet and maintain standards established by rules adopted under section 4723.07 of the

Revised Code, the board shall hold an adjudication under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code to consider the program. Based on results of the adjudication, the board may continue or withdraw conditional approval, or grant full approval.

(7) Place on provisional approval, for a period of time specified by the board, a prelicensure nursing education program that has ceased to meet and maintain the minimum standards of the board established by rules adopted under section 4723.07 of the Revised Code. Prior to or at the end of the period, the board shall reconsider whether the program meets the standards and shall grant full approval if it does. If it does not, the board may withdraw approval, pursuant to an adjudication under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code.

(8) Approve continuing education programs and courses under standards established in rules adopted under sections 4723.07, 4723.69, 4723.79, and 4723.88 of the Revised Code;

(9) Establish a substance abuse disorder monitoring program for ~~monitoring chemical dependency~~ in accordance with section 4723.35 of the Revised Code;

(10) Establish the practice intervention and improvement program in accordance with section 4723.282 of the Revised Code;

(11) Grant approval to the course of study in advanced pharmacology and related topics described in section 4723.482 of the Revised Code;

(12) Make an annual edition of the exclusionary formulary established in rules adopted under section 4723.50 of the Revised Code available to the public by electronic means and, as soon as possible after any revision of the formulary becomes effective, make the revision available to the public by electronic means;

(13) Approve under section 4723.46 of the Revised Code national certifying organizations for examination and licensure of advanced practice registered nurses, which may include separate organizations for each nursing specialty;

(14) Provide guidance and make recommendations to the general assembly, the governor, state agencies, and the federal government with respect to the regulation of the practice of nursing and the enforcement of this chapter;

(15) Make an annual report to the governor, which shall be open for public inspection;

(16) Maintain and have open for public inspection the following records:

(a) A record of all its meetings and proceedings;

(b) A record of all applicants for, and holders of, licenses and certificates issued by the board under this chapter or in accordance with rules adopted under this chapter. The record shall be maintained in a format determined by the board.

(c) A list of education and training programs approved by the board.

(17) Deny conditional approval to a new prelicensure nursing education program or a program that is being reestablished after having ceased to operate if the program or a person acting on behalf of the program submits or causes to be submitted to the board false, misleading, or deceptive statements, information, or documentation in the process of applying for approval of the program. If the board proposes to deny approval of the program, it shall do so pursuant to an adjudication conducted under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code.

(B) The board may fulfill the requirement of division (A)(8) of this section by authorizing persons who meet the standards established in rules adopted under section 4723.07 of the Revised

Code to approve continuing education programs and courses. Persons so authorized shall approve continuing education programs and courses in accordance with standards established in rules adopted under section 4723.07 of the Revised Code.

Persons seeking authorization to approve continuing education programs and courses shall apply to the board and pay the appropriate fee established under section 4723.08 of the Revised Code. Authorizations to approve continuing education programs and courses shall expire and may be renewed according to the schedule established in rules adopted under section 4723.07 of the Revised Code.

In addition to approving continuing education programs under division (A)(8) of this section, the board may sponsor continuing education activities that are directly related to the statutes and rules the board enforces.

(C)(1) The board may deny conditional approval to a new prelicensure nursing education program or program that is being reestablished after having ceased to operate if the program is controlled by a person who controls or has controlled a program that had its approval withdrawn, revoked, suspended, or restricted by the board or a board of another jurisdiction that is a member of the national council of state boards of nursing. If the board proposes to deny approval, it shall do so pursuant to an adjudication conducted under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code.

(2) As used in this division, "control" means any of the following:

(a) Holding fifty per cent or more of the outstanding voting securities or membership interest of a prelicensure nursing education program;

(b) In the case of an unincorporated prelicensure nursing education program, having the right to fifty per cent or more of the program's profits or in the event of a dissolution, fifty per cent or more of the program's assets;

(c) In the case of a prelicensure nursing education program that is a for-profit or not-for-profit corporation, having the contractual authority presently to designate fifty per cent or more of its directors;

(d) In the case of a prelicensure nursing education program that is a trust, having the contractual authority presently to designate fifty per cent or more of its trustees;

(e) Having the authority to direct the management, policies, or investments of a prelicensure nursing education program.

(D)(1) When an action taken by the board under division (A)(6), (7), or (17) or (C)(1) of this section is required to be taken pursuant to an adjudication conducted under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, the board may, in lieu of an adjudication hearing, enter into a consent agreement to resolve the matter. A consent agreement, when ratified by a vote of a quorum of the board, constitutes the findings and order of the board with respect to the matter addressed in the agreement. If the board refuses to ratify a consent agreement, the admissions and findings contained in the agreement are of no effect.

(2) In any instance in which the board is required under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code to give notice to a person seeking approval of a prelicensure nursing education program of an opportunity for a hearing and the person does not make a timely request for a hearing in accordance with section 119.07 of the Revised Code, the board is not required to hold a hearing, but may adopt, by a vote of a quorum, a final order that contains the board's findings.

(3) When the board denies or withdraws approval of a prelicensure nursing education program, the board may specify that its action is permanent. A program subject to a permanent action taken by the board is forever ineligible for approval and the board shall not accept an application for the program's reinstatement or approval.

Sec. 4723.28. (A) The board of nursing, by a vote of a quorum, may impose one or more of the following sanctions if it finds that a person committed fraud in passing an examination required to obtain a license or dialysis technician certificate issued by the board or to have committed fraud, misrepresentation, or deception in applying for or securing any nursing license or dialysis technician certificate issued by the board: deny, revoke, suspend, or place restrictions on any nursing license or dialysis technician certificate issued by the board; reprimand or otherwise discipline a holder of a nursing license or dialysis technician certificate; or impose a fine of not more than five hundred dollars per violation.

(B) The board of nursing, by a vote of a quorum, may impose one or more of the following sanctions: deny, revoke, suspend, or place restrictions on any nursing license or dialysis technician certificate issued by the board; reprimand or otherwise discipline a holder of a nursing license or dialysis technician certificate; or impose a fine of not more than five hundred dollars per violation. The sanctions may be imposed for any of the following:

(1) Denial, revocation, suspension, or restriction of authority to engage in a licensed profession or practice a health care occupation, including nursing or practice as a dialysis technician, for any reason other than a failure to renew, in Ohio or another state or jurisdiction;

(2) Engaging in the practice of nursing or engaging in practice as a dialysis technician, having failed to renew a nursing license or dialysis technician certificate issued under this chapter, or while a nursing license or dialysis technician certificate is under suspension;

(3) Conviction of, a plea of guilty to, a judicial finding of guilt of, a judicial finding of guilt resulting from a plea of no contest to, or a judicial finding of eligibility for a pretrial diversion or similar program or for intervention in lieu of conviction for, a misdemeanor committed in the course of practice;

(4) Conviction of, a plea of guilty to, a judicial finding of guilt of, a judicial finding of guilt resulting from a plea of no contest to, or a judicial finding of eligibility for a pretrial diversion or similar program or for intervention in lieu of conviction for, any felony or of any crime involving gross immorality or moral turpitude;

(5) Selling, giving away, or administering drugs or therapeutic devices for other than legal and legitimate therapeutic purposes; or conviction of, a plea of guilty to, a judicial finding of guilt of, a judicial finding of guilt resulting from a plea of no contest to, or a judicial finding of eligibility for a pretrial diversion or similar program or for intervention in lieu of conviction for, violating any municipal, state, county, or federal drug law;

(6) Conviction of, a plea of guilty to, a judicial finding of guilt of, a judicial finding of guilt resulting from a plea of no contest to, or a judicial finding of eligibility for a pretrial diversion or similar program or for intervention in lieu of conviction for, an act in another jurisdiction that would constitute a felony or a crime of moral turpitude in Ohio;

(7) Conviction of, a plea of guilty to, a judicial finding of guilt of, a judicial finding of guilt resulting from a plea of no contest to, or a judicial finding of eligibility for a pretrial diversion or

similar program or for intervention in lieu of conviction for, an act in the course of practice in another jurisdiction that would constitute a misdemeanor in Ohio;

(8) Self-administering or otherwise taking into the body any dangerous drug, as defined in section 4729.01 of the Revised Code, in any way that is not in accordance with a legal, valid prescription issued for that individual, or self-administering or otherwise taking into the body any drug that is a schedule I controlled substance;

(9) Habitual or excessive use of controlled substances, other habit-forming drugs, or alcohol or other chemical substances to an extent that impairs the individual's ability to provide safe nursing care or safe dialysis care;

(10) Impairment of the ability to practice according to acceptable and prevailing standards of safe nursing care or safe dialysis care because of the use of drugs, alcohol, or other chemical substances;

(11) Impairment of the ability to practice according to acceptable and prevailing standards of safe nursing care or safe dialysis care because of a physical or mental disability;

(12) Assaulting or causing harm to a patient or depriving a patient of the means to summon assistance;

(13) Misappropriation or attempted misappropriation of money or anything of value in the course of practice;

(14) Adjudication by a probate court of being mentally ill or mentally incompetent. The board may reinstate the person's nursing license or dialysis technician certificate upon adjudication by a probate court of the person's restoration to competency or upon submission to the board of other proof of competency.

(15) The suspension or termination of employment by the United States department of defense or department of veterans affairs for any act that violates or would violate this chapter;

(16) Violation of this chapter or any rules adopted under it;

(17) Violation of any restrictions placed by the board on a nursing license or dialysis technician certificate;

(18) Failure to use universal and standard precautions established by rules adopted under section 4723.07 of the Revised Code;

(19) Failure to practice in accordance with acceptable and prevailing standards of safe nursing care or safe dialysis care;

(20) In the case of a registered nurse, engaging in activities that exceed the practice of nursing as a registered nurse;

(21) In the case of a licensed practical nurse, engaging in activities that exceed the practice of nursing as a licensed practical nurse;

(22) In the case of a dialysis technician, engaging in activities that exceed those permitted under section 4723.72 of the Revised Code;

(23) Aiding and abetting a person in that person's practice of nursing without a license or practice as a dialysis technician without a certificate issued under this chapter;

(24) In the case of an advanced practice registered nurse, except as provided in division (M) of this section, either of the following:

(a) Waiving the payment of all or any part of a deductible or copayment that a patient,

pursuant to a health insurance or health care policy, contract, or plan that covers such nursing services, would otherwise be required to pay if the waiver is used as an enticement to a patient or group of patients to receive health care services from that provider;

(b) Advertising that the nurse will waive the payment of all or any part of a deductible or copayment that a patient, pursuant to a health insurance or health care policy, contract, or plan that covers such nursing services, would otherwise be required to pay.

(25) Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of participation in the ~~chemical dependency~~ substance use disorder monitoring program established under section 4723.35 of the Revised Code;

(26) Failure to comply with the terms and conditions required under the practice intervention and improvement program established under section 4723.282 of the Revised Code;

(27) In the case of an advanced practice registered nurse:

(a) Engaging in activities that exceed those permitted for the nurse's nursing specialty under section 4723.43 of the Revised Code;

(b) Failure to meet the quality assurance standards established under section 4723.07 of the Revised Code.

(28) In the case of an advanced practice registered nurse other than a certified registered nurse anesthetist, failure to maintain a standard care arrangement in accordance with section 4723.431 of the Revised Code or to practice in accordance with the standard care arrangement;

(29) In the case of an advanced practice registered nurse who is designated as a clinical nurse specialist, certified nurse-midwife, or certified nurse practitioner, failure to prescribe drugs and therapeutic devices in accordance with section 4723.481 of the Revised Code;

(30) Prescribing any drug or device to perform or induce an abortion, or otherwise performing or inducing an abortion;

(31) Failure to establish and maintain professional boundaries with a patient, as specified in rules adopted under section 4723.07 of the Revised Code;

(32) Regardless of whether the contact or verbal behavior is consensual, engaging with a patient other than the spouse of the registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, or dialysis technician in any of the following:

(a) Sexual contact, as defined in section 2907.01 of the Revised Code;

(b) Verbal behavior that is sexually demeaning to the patient or may be reasonably interpreted by the patient as sexually demeaning.

(33) Assisting suicide, as defined in section 3795.01 of the Revised Code;

(34) Failure to comply with the requirements in section 3719.061 of the Revised Code before issuing for a minor a prescription for an opioid analgesic, as defined in section 3719.01 of the Revised Code;

(35) Failure to comply with section 4723.487 of the Revised Code, unless the state board of pharmacy no longer maintains a drug database pursuant to section 4729.75 of the Revised Code;

(36) The revocation, suspension, restriction, reduction, or termination of clinical privileges by the United States department of defense or department of veterans affairs or the termination or suspension of a certificate of registration to prescribe drugs by the drug enforcement administration of the United States department of justice.

(C) Disciplinary actions taken by the board under divisions (A) and (B) of this section shall be taken pursuant to an adjudication conducted under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, except that in lieu of a hearing, the board may enter into a consent agreement with an individual to resolve an allegation of a violation of this chapter or any rule adopted under it. A consent agreement, when ratified by a vote of a quorum, shall constitute the findings and order of the board with respect to the matter addressed in the agreement. If the board refuses to ratify a consent agreement, the admissions and findings contained in the agreement shall be of no effect.

(D) The hearings of the board shall be conducted in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, the board may appoint a hearing examiner, as provided in section 119.09 of the Revised Code, to conduct any hearing the board is authorized to hold under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code.

In any instance in which the board is required under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code to give notice of an opportunity for a hearing and the applicant, licensee, or certificate holder does not make a timely request for a hearing in accordance with section 119.07 of the Revised Code, the board is not required to hold a hearing, but may adopt, by a vote of a quorum, a final order that contains the board's findings. In the final order, the board may order any of the sanctions listed in division (A) or (B) of this section.

(E) If a criminal action is brought against a registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, or dialysis technician for an act or crime described in divisions (B)(3) to (7) of this section and the action is dismissed by the trial court other than on the merits, the board shall conduct an adjudication to determine whether the registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, or dialysis technician committed the act on which the action was based. If the board determines on the basis of the adjudication that the registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, or dialysis technician committed the act, or if the registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, or dialysis technician fails to participate in the adjudication, the board may take action as though the registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, or dialysis technician had been convicted of the act.

If the board takes action on the basis of a conviction, plea, or a judicial finding as described in divisions (B)(3) to (7) of this section that is overturned on appeal, the registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, or dialysis technician may, on exhaustion of the appeal process, petition the board for reconsideration of its action. On receipt of the petition and supporting court documents, the board shall temporarily rescind its action. If the board determines that the decision on appeal was a decision on the merits, it shall permanently rescind its action. If the board determines that the decision on appeal was not a decision on the merits, it shall conduct an adjudication to determine whether the registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, or dialysis technician committed the act on which the original conviction, plea, or judicial finding was based. If the board determines on the basis of the adjudication that the registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, or dialysis technician committed such act, or if the registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, or dialysis technician does not request an adjudication, the board shall reinstate its action; otherwise, the board shall permanently rescind its action.

Notwithstanding the provision of division (C)(2) of section 2953.32 of the Revised Code specifying that if records pertaining to a criminal case are sealed under that section the proceedings in the case shall be deemed not to have occurred, sealing of the following records on which the board

has based an action under this section shall have no effect on the board's action or any sanction imposed by the board under this section: records of any conviction, guilty plea, judicial finding of guilt resulting from a plea of no contest, or a judicial finding of eligibility for a pretrial diversion program or intervention in lieu of conviction.

The board shall not be required to seal, destroy, redact, or otherwise modify its records to reflect the court's sealing of conviction records.

(F) The board may investigate an individual's criminal background in performing its duties under this section. As part of such investigation, the board may order the individual to submit, at the individual's expense, a request to the bureau of criminal identification and investigation for a criminal records check and check of federal bureau of investigation records in accordance with the procedure described in section 4723.091 of the Revised Code.

(G) During the course of an investigation conducted under this section, the board may compel any registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, or dialysis technician or applicant under this chapter to submit to a mental or physical examination, or both, as required by the board and at the expense of the individual, if the board finds reason to believe that the individual under investigation may have a physical or mental impairment that may affect the individual's ability to provide safe nursing care. Failure of any individual to submit to a mental or physical examination when directed constitutes an admission of the allegations, unless the failure is due to circumstances beyond the individual's control, and a default and final order may be entered without the taking of testimony or presentation of evidence.

If the board finds that an individual is impaired, the board shall require the individual to submit to care, counseling, or treatment approved or designated by the board, as a condition for initial, continued, reinstated, or renewed authority to practice. The individual shall be afforded an opportunity to demonstrate to the board that the individual can begin or resume the individual's occupation in compliance with acceptable and prevailing standards of care under the provisions of the individual's authority to practice.

For purposes of this division, any registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, or dialysis technician or applicant under this chapter shall be deemed to have given consent to submit to a mental or physical examination when directed to do so in writing by the board, and to have waived all objections to the admissibility of testimony or examination reports that constitute a privileged communication.

(H) The board shall investigate evidence that appears to show that any person has violated any provision of this chapter or any rule of the board. Any person may report to the board any information the person may have that appears to show a violation of any provision of this chapter or rule of the board. In the absence of bad faith, any person who reports such information or who testifies before the board in any adjudication conducted under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code shall not be liable for civil damages as a result of the report or testimony.

(I) All of the following apply under this chapter with respect to the confidentiality of information:

(1) Information received by the board pursuant to a complaint or an investigation is confidential and not subject to discovery in any civil action, except that the board may disclose information to law enforcement officers and government entities for purposes of an investigation of

either a licensed health care professional, including a registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, or dialysis technician, or a person who may have engaged in the unauthorized practice of nursing or dialysis care. No law enforcement officer or government entity with knowledge of any information disclosed by the board pursuant to this division shall divulge the information to any other person or government entity except for the purpose of a government investigation, a prosecution, or an adjudication by a court or government entity.

(2) If an investigation requires a review of patient records, the investigation and proceeding shall be conducted in such a manner as to protect patient confidentiality.

(3) All adjudications and investigations of the board shall be considered civil actions for the purposes of section 2305.252 of the Revised Code.

(4) Any board activity that involves continued monitoring of an individual as part of or following any disciplinary action taken under this section shall be conducted in a manner that maintains the individual's confidentiality. Information received or maintained by the board with respect to the board's monitoring activities is not subject to discovery in any civil action and is confidential, except that the board may disclose information to law enforcement officers and government entities for purposes of an investigation of a licensee or certificate holder.

(J) Any action taken by the board under this section resulting in a suspension from practice shall be accompanied by a written statement of the conditions under which the person may be reinstated to practice.

(K) When the board refuses to grant a license or certificate to an applicant, revokes a license or certificate, or refuses to reinstate a license or certificate, the board may specify that its action is permanent. An individual subject to permanent action taken by the board is forever ineligible to hold a license or certificate of the type that was refused or revoked and the board shall not accept from the individual an application for reinstatement of the license or certificate or for a new license or certificate.

(L) No unilateral surrender of a nursing license, certificate of authority, or dialysis technician certificate issued under this chapter shall be effective unless accepted by majority vote of the board. No application for a nursing license, certificate of authority, or dialysis technician certificate issued under this chapter may be withdrawn without a majority vote of the board. The board's jurisdiction to take disciplinary action under this section is not removed or limited when an individual has a license or certificate classified as inactive or fails to renew a license or certificate.

(M) Sanctions shall not be imposed under division (B)(24) of this section against any licensee who waives deductibles and copayments as follows:

(1) In compliance with the health benefit plan that expressly allows such a practice. Waiver of the deductibles or copayments shall be made only with the full knowledge and consent of the plan purchaser, payer, and third-party administrator. Documentation of the consent shall be made available to the board upon request.

(2) For professional services rendered to any other person licensed pursuant to this chapter to the extent allowed by this chapter and the rules of the board.

Sec. 4723.35. (A) As used in this section, "~~chemical dependency~~" "substance use disorder" means either of the following:

(1) The chronic and habitual use of alcoholic beverages to the extent that the user no longer

can control the use of alcohol or endangers the user's health, safety, or welfare or that of others;

(2) The use of a controlled substance as defined in section 3719.01 of the Revised Code, a harmful intoxicant as defined in section 2925.01 of the Revised Code, or a dangerous drug as defined in section 4729.01 of the Revised Code, to the extent that the user becomes physically or psychologically dependent on the substance, intoxicant, or drug or endangers the user's health, safety, or welfare or that of others.

(B) The board of nursing may abstain from taking disciplinary action under section 4723.28 or 4723.86 of the Revised Code against an individual with a ~~chemical dependency~~ substance use disorder if it finds that the individual can be treated effectively and there is no impairment of the individual's ability to practice according to acceptable and prevailing standards of safe care. The board shall establish a ~~chemical dependency~~ substance use disorder monitoring program to monitor the registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, dialysis technicians, and certified community health workers against whom the board has abstained from taking action. The board shall develop the program, select the program's name, and designate a coordinator to administer the program.

(C) Determinations regarding an individual's eligibility for admission to, continued participation in, and successful completion of the monitoring program shall be made by the board's supervising member for disciplinary matters in accordance with rules adopted under division (D) of this section.

(D) The board shall adopt rules in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code that establish the following:

(1) Eligibility requirements for admission to and continued participation in the monitoring program;

(2) Terms and conditions that must be met to participate in and successfully complete the program;

(3) Procedures for keeping confidential records regarding participants;

(4) Any other requirements or procedures necessary to establish and administer the program.

(E)(1) As a condition of being admitted to the monitoring program, an individual shall surrender to the program coordinator the license or certificate that the individual holds. While the surrender is in effect, the individual is prohibited from engaging in the practice of nursing, engaging in the provision of dialysis care, or engaging in the provision of services that were being provided as a certified community health worker.

If the board's supervising member for disciplinary matters determines that a participant is capable of resuming practice according to acceptable and prevailing standards of safe care, the program coordinator shall return the participant's license or certificate. If the participant violates the terms and conditions of resumed practice, the coordinator shall require the participant to surrender the license or certificate as a condition of continued participation in the program. The coordinator may require the surrender only on the approval of the board's supervising member for disciplinary matters.

The surrender of a license or certificate on admission to the monitoring program or while participating in the program does not constitute an action by the board under section 4723.28 or 4723.86 of the Revised Code. The participant may rescind the surrender at any time and the board may proceed by taking action under section 4723.28 or 4723.86 of the Revised Code.

(2) If the program coordinator determines that a participant is significantly out of compliance with the terms and conditions for participation, the coordinator shall notify the board's supervising member for disciplinary matters and the supervising member shall determine whether to temporarily suspend the participant's license or certificate. The board shall notify the participant of the suspension by certified mail sent to the participant's last known address and shall refer the matter to the board for formal action under section 4723.28 or 4723.86 of the Revised Code.

(F) All of the following apply with respect to the receipt, release, and maintenance of records and information by the monitoring program:

(1) The program coordinator shall maintain all program records in the board's office, and for each participant, shall retain the records for a period of two years following the participant's date of successful completion of the program.

(2) When applying to participate in the monitoring program, the applicant shall sign a waiver permitting the board to receive and release information necessary to determine whether the individual is eligible for admission. After being admitted, the participant shall sign a waiver permitting the board to receive and release information necessary to determine whether the individual is eligible for continued participation in the program. Information that may be necessary for the board's supervising member for disciplinary matters to determine eligibility for admission or continued participation in the monitoring program includes, but is not limited to, information provided to and by employers, probation officers, law enforcement agencies, peer assistance programs, health professionals, and treatment providers. No entity with knowledge that the information has been provided to the monitoring program shall divulge that knowledge to any other person.

(3) Except as provided in division (F)(4) of this section, all records pertaining to an individual's application for or participation in the monitoring program, including medical records, treatment records, and mental health records, shall be confidential. The records are not public records for the purposes of section 149.43 of the Revised Code and are not subject to discovery by subpoena or admissible as evidence in any judicial proceeding.

(4) The board may disclose information regarding a participant's progress in the program to any person or government entity that the participant authorizes in writing to be given the information. In disclosing information under this division, the board shall not include any information that is protected under section 5119.27 of the Revised Code or any federal statute or regulation that provides for the confidentiality of medical, mental health, or substance abuse records.

(G) In the absence of fraud or bad faith, the board as a whole, its individual members, and its employees and representatives are not liable for damages in any civil action as a result of disclosing information in accordance with division (F)(4) of this section. In the absence of fraud or bad faith, any person reporting to the program with regard to an individual's ~~chemical dependence~~ substance use disorder, or the progress or lack of progress of that individual with regard to treatment, is not liable for damages in any civil action as a result of the report.

Sec. 5101.47. (A) Except as provided in divisions (B) and (C) of this section, both of the following apply to the department of job and family services:

(1) The department shall accept applications, determine eligibility, redetermine eligibility, and perform related administrative activities for the supplemental nutrition assistance program administered by the department pursuant to section 5101.54 of the Revised Code.

The department may assign the duties described in division (A)(1) of this section to any county department of job and family services.

(2) The department may accept applications, determine eligibility, redetermine eligibility, and perform related administrative activities for one or more of the following:

(1) ~~(a)~~ Publicly funded child care provided under Chapter 5104. of the Revised Code;

~~(2) The supplemental nutrition assistance program administered by the department pursuant to section 5101.54 of the Revised Code;~~

~~(3) (b)~~ Other programs administered by the department that the director of job and family services determines are supportive of children, adults, or families;

~~(4) (c)~~ Other programs administered by the department regarding which the director determines administrative cost savings and efficiency may be achieved through the department accepting applications, determining eligibility, redetermining eligibility, or performing related administrative activities.

(B) If federal law requires a face-to-face interview to complete an eligibility determination for a program specified in or pursuant to division (A) of this section, the face-to-face interview shall not be conducted by the department of job and family services.

(C) Subject to division (B) of this section, if the department is required or elects to accept applications, determine eligibility, redetermine eligibility, and perform related administrative activities for a program specified in or pursuant to division (A) of this section, both of the following apply:

(1) An individual seeking services under the program may apply for the program to the department or to the entity that state law governing the program authorizes to accept applications for the program.

(2) The department is subject to federal statutes and regulations and state statutes and rules that require, permit, or prohibit an action regarding accepting applications, determining or redetermining eligibility, and performing related administrative activities for the program.

(D) The director may adopt rules as necessary to implement this section.

Sec. 5101.54. (A) The director of job and family services shall administer the supplemental nutrition assistance program in accordance with the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.). The department of job and family services may:

(1) Prepare and submit to the secretary of the United States department of agriculture a plan for the administration of the supplemental nutrition assistance program;

(2) Prescribe forms for applications, certificates, reports, records, and accounts of county departments of job and family services, and other matters;

(3) Require such reports and information from each county department of job and family services as may be necessary and advisable;

(4) Administer and expend any sums appropriated by the general assembly for the purposes of the supplemental nutrition assistance program and all sums paid to the state by the United States as authorized by the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008;

(5) Conduct such investigations as are necessary;

(6) Enter into interagency agreements and cooperate with investigations conducted by the department of public safety, including providing information for investigative purposes, exchanging

property and records, passing through federal financial participation, modifying any agreements with the United States department of agriculture, providing for the supply, security, and accounting of supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits for investigative purposes, and meeting any other requirements necessary for the detection and deterrence of illegal activities in the supplemental nutrition assistance program;

(7) Adopt rules in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code governing employment and training requirements of recipients of supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits, including rules specifying which recipients are subject to the requirements and establishing sanctions for failure to satisfy the requirements. The rules shall be consistent with 7 U.S.C. 2015, including its work and employment and training requirements, and, to the extent practicable, shall provide for the recipients to participate in work activities, developmental activities, and alternative work activities described in sections 5107.40 to 5107.69 of the Revised Code that are comparable to programs authorized by 7 U.S.C. 2015(d)(4). The rules may reference rules adopted under section 5107.05 of the Revised Code governing work activities, developmental activities, and alternative work activities described in sections 5107.40 to 5107.69 of the Revised Code.

(8) Adopt rules in accordance with section 111.15 of the Revised Code that are consistent with the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, ~~as amended, and the~~ regulations adopted thereunder, and this section governing the following:

- (a) Eligibility requirements for the supplemental nutrition assistance program;
- (b) Sanctions for failure to comply with eligibility requirements;
- (c) Allotment of supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits;
- (d) To the extent permitted under federal statutes and regulations, a system under which some or all recipients of supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits subject to employment and training requirements established by rules adopted under division (A)(7) of this section receive the benefits after satisfying the requirements;
- (e) Administration of the program by county departments of job and family services;
- (f) Other requirements necessary for the efficient administration of the program.

(9) Submit a plan to the United States secretary of agriculture for the department of job and family services to operate a simplified supplemental nutrition assistance program pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 2035 under which requirements governing the Ohio works first program established under Chapter 5107. of the Revised Code also govern the supplemental nutrition assistance program in the case of households receiving supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits and participating in Ohio works first.

(B) A household that is entitled to receive supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits and that is determined to be in immediate need of nutrition assistance; shall receive certification of eligibility for program benefits, pending verification, within twenty-four hours, or, if mitigating circumstances occur, within seventy-two hours, after application, if:

(1) The results of the application interview indicate that the household will be eligible upon full verification;

(2) Information sufficient to confirm the statements in the application has been obtained from at least one additional source, not a member of the applicant's household. Such information shall be recorded in the case file; and shall include:

- (a) The name of the person who provided the name of the information source;
- (b) The name and address of the information source;
- (c) A summary of the information obtained.

The period of temporary eligibility shall not exceed one month from the date of certification of temporary eligibility. If eligibility is established by full verification, benefits shall continue without interruption as long as eligibility continues.

There is no limit on the number of times a household may receive expedited certification of eligibility under this division as long as before each expedited certification all of the information identified in division (F)(1) of this section was verified for the household at the last expedited certification or the household's eligibility was certified under normal processing standards since the last expedited certification.

At the time of application, the county department of job and family services shall provide to a household described in this division a list of community assistance programs that provide emergency food.

(C) Before certifying supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits, the department shall verify the eligibility of each household in accordance with division (F) of this section. All applications shall be approved or denied through full verification within thirty days from receipt of the application by the county department of job and family services.

(D) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the certification of households that qualify under federal regulations to receive supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits without charge under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008.

(E) Any person who applies for the supplemental nutrition assistance program shall receive a voter registration application under section 3503.10 of the Revised Code.

(F)(1) In order to verify household eligibility as required by federal regulations and this section, the department shall, except as provided in division (F)(2) of this section, verify at least the following information before certifying supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits:

- (a) Household composition;
- (b) Identity;
- (c) Citizenship and alien eligibility status;
- (d) Social security numbers;
- (e) State residency status;
- (f) Disability status;
- (g) Gross nonexempt income;
- (h) Utility expenses;
- (i) Medical expenses;
- (j) Enrollment status in other state-administered public assistance programs within and outside this state;

(k) Any available information related to potential identity fraud or identity theft.

(2) A household's eligibility for supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits may be certified before all of the information identified in division (F)(1) of this section is verified if the household's certification is being expedited under division (B) of this section.

(3) On at least a quarterly basis and consistent with federal regulations, as information is

received by a county department of job and family services, the county department shall review and act on information identified in division (F)(1) of this section that indicates a change in circumstances that may affect eligibility, to the extent such information is available to the department.

(4) Consistent with federal regulations, as part of the application for public assistance and before certifying benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program, the department shall require an applicant, or a person acting on the applicant's behalf, to verify the identity of the members of the applicant household.

(5)(a) The department shall sign a memorandum of understanding with any department, agency, or division as needed to obtain the information identified in division (F)(1) of this section.

(b) The department may contract with one or more independent vendors to provide the information identified in division (F)(1) of this section.

(c) Nothing in this section prevents the department or a county department of job and family services from receiving or reviewing additional information related to eligibility not identified in this section or from contracting with one or more independent vendors to provide additional information not identified in this section.

(6) The department shall explore joining a multistate cooperative, such as the national accuracy clearinghouse, to identify individuals enrolled in public assistance programs outside of this state.

(G) If the department receives information concerning a household certified to receive supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits that indicates a change in circumstances that may affect eligibility, the department shall take action in accordance with federal regulations, including verifying unclear information, providing prior written notice of a change or adverse action, and notifying the household of the right to a fair hearing.

(H) In the case of suspected fraud, the department shall refer the case for an administrative disqualification hearing or to the county prosecutor of the county in which the applicant or recipient resides for investigation, or both.

(I) The department shall adopt rules in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code to implement divisions (F) to (H) of this section.

(J) Except as prohibited by federal law, the department may assign any of the duties described in this section to any county department of job and family services.

Sec. 5160.29. (A) As part of the process of determining an individual's eligibility for a medical assistance program, at least all of the following information about the individual shall be verified:

- (1) Identity;
- (2) Citizenship and alien eligibility;
- (3) Social security number;
- (4) State residency status;
- (5) Disability status;
- (6) Gross nonexempt income;
- (7) Household status;
- (8) Medical expenses;

(9) Enrollment status in other state-administered public assistance programs within and outside the state.

(B) As part of the process of determining an individual's eligibility for a medical assistance program, each applicant, or a person acting on the applicant's behalf, shall verify the applicant's identity.

(C)(1) The department of medicaid shall sign a memorandum of understanding with any department, agency, or division as needed to obtain the information specified in division (A) of this section.

(2) The department may contract with one or more independent vendors to provide the information identified in division (A) of this section.

Sec. 5160.291. (A)(1) As information described in division (A) of section 5160.29 of the Revised Code is received by the department of medicaid or an entity with which the department has entered into an agreement under section 5160.30 of the Revised Code, the department or entity shall do both of the following on at least a quarterly basis and in accordance with federal regulations:

(a) Review the information to determine whether it indicates a change in circumstances that may affect eligibility for a medical assistance program;

(b) Take appropriate action.

(2) Division (A)(1) of this section applies only to the extent information described in division (A) of section 5160.29 of the Revised Code is available to the department or entity.

(B) If the department of medicaid or an entity with which the department has entered into an agreement under section 5160.30 of the Revised Code receives information concerning a medical assistance recipient that indicates a change in circumstances that may affect the recipient's continued eligibility for the medical assistance program in which the recipient is enrolled, the department or entity shall take appropriate action, including verifying unclear information, providing prior written notice of a change or adverse action, and notifying the recipient of the right to appeal under section 5160.31 of the Revised Code.

Sec. 5160.292. If a violation of section 2913.401 of the Revised Code or a similar offense is suspected in the process of determining or redetermining a medical assistance recipient's eligibility, the case shall be referred for investigation to the county prosecutor of the county in which the medical assistance recipient resides, referred for an administrative disqualification hearing, or both.

Sec. 5160.293. Nothing in sections 5160.29 to 5160.292 of the Revised Code prevents the department of medicaid or any entity with which the department has entered into an agreement under section 5160.30 of the Revised Code from doing either of the following:

(A) Receiving or reviewing information related to individuals' eligibility for a medical assistance program beyond the information specified in division (A) of section 5160.29 of the Revised Code;

(B) Contracting with one or more independent vendors to provide such additional information for such purpose.

Sec. 5160.47. (A) The department of medicaid shall ~~enter~~ do both of the following:

(1) Enter into any necessary agreements with the United States department of health and human services and neighboring states to join and participate as an active member in the public assistance reporting information system;

~~(2) Explore joining other multistate cooperatives, such as the national accuracy clearinghouse, to identify individuals enrolled in public assistance programs outside of this state. The~~

~~(B) The department may disclose information regarding a medical assistance recipient to the extent necessary to participate as an active member in the public assistance reporting information system or other multistate cooperative.~~

SECTION 2. That existing sections 4723.06, 4723.28, 4723.35, 5101.47, 5101.54, and 5160.47 of the Revised Code are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. Sections 5101.47, 5101.54, 5160.29, 5160.291, 5160.292, 5160.293, and 5160.47 of the Revised Code, as amended or enacted by this act, shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

Speaker _____ *of the House of Representatives.*

President _____ *of the Senate.*

Passed _____, 20____

Approved _____, 20____

Governor.

The section numbering of law of a general and permanent nature is complete and in conformity with the Revised Code.

Director, Legislative Service Commission.

Filed in the office of the Secretary of State at Columbus, Ohio, on the ____ day of _____, A. D. 20 ____.

Secretary of State.

File No. _____ Effective Date _____