

**Fiscal:** No Fiscal Impact

**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact

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**Action Date:** 05/18/15

**Action:** Do Pass.

**Meeting Dates:** 05/18

**Vote:**

Yeas: 8 - Buehler, Greenlick, Hayden, Kennemer, Keny-Guyer, Lively, Nosse, Weidner

Abs: 1 - Clem

**Prepared By:** Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Committee Administrator

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Prohibits individual from using title “nurse” unless the individual holds a nursing degree or certificate and is licensed to practice the profession in which the degree or certificate was earned.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Generic use of the “nurse” title
- Currently anyone can advertise as a nurse
- Public safety
- Grants clear discipline authority to the Board of Nursing

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

The title "nurse" has grown to be generically used by a variety of personnel with varying healthcare experience. For example, assistive personnel taking blood pressure and temperature do not need to be registered and licensed nurses. As such, if a patient took medical advice from such a person, a patient could view that as medical advice from a nurse. Patients are not always aware of the classifications, and this can impact patient safety. There is nothing in statute to specify that use of the title “nurse” is prohibited without license and degree, and therefore anyone can advertise, provide services and use the title without penalty.