

**THE AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATION**  
**Laws Protecting the title “NURSE”**

STATE	CODE
Arizona	<p>TITLE 32. PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS            CHAPTER 15. NURSING            ARTICLE 2. LICENSING            A.R.S. § 32-1636 (2003)            § 32-1636. Use of title or abbreviation by professional nurse            Only a person who holds a valid and current license to practice professional nursing in this state or in a party state pursuant to section 32-1668 may use the <b>title "nurse "</b>, "registered nurse", "graduate nurse" or "professional nurse" or the abbreviation "R.N."            HISTORY: Laws 2002, Ch. 203, § 14.</p>
California	<p>BUSINESS &amp; PROFESSIONS CODE            DIVISION 2. Healing Arts            CHAPTER 1. General Provisions            ARTICLE 7.5. Health Care Practitioners            Cal Bus &amp; Prof Code § 680 (2003)            § 680. Health care practitioner's disclosure of name and license status            (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a health care practitioner shall disclose, while working, his or her name and practitioner's license status, as granted by this state, on a name tag in at least 18-point type. A health care practitioner in a practice or an office, whose license is prominently displayed, may opt to not wear a name tag. If a health care practitioner or a licensed clinical social worker is working in a psychiatric setting or in a setting that is not licensed by the state, the employing entity or agency shall have the discretion to make an exception from the name tag requirement for individual safety or therapeutic concerns. In the interest of public safety and consumer awareness, it shall be unlawful for any person to use the <b>title "nurse "</b> in reference to himself or herself and in any capacity, except for an individual who is a registered nurse or a licensed vocational nurse, or as otherwise provided in Section 2800. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a certified nurse assistant from using his or her title.</p>

<p>Florida</p>	<p>TITLE 32. REGULATION OF PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS  CHAPTER 464. NURSING  PART I. NURSE PRACTICE ACT  Fla. Stat. § 464.016 (2002)  § 464.016. Violations and penalties  (2) Each of the following acts constitutes a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083:  (a) Using the name or <b>title "Nurse," "Registered Nurse," "Licensed Practical Nurse," "Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner,"</b> or any other name or title which implies that a person was licensed or certified as same, unless such person is duly licensed or certified.  (b) Knowingly concealing information relating to violations of this part.</p>
<p>Hawaii</p>	<p>DIVISION 2. BUSINESS  TITLE 25. PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS  CHAPTER 457. NURSES  HRS § 457-7 (2003)  § 457-7. Registered nurses; qualifications; licenses; fees; title; existing licensed nurses; verification of licenses; eligibility    (2d) Any person who holds a license to practice nursing as a registered nurse in this State shall use the title "Registered Nurse" and the abbreviation "R.N.". No other person shall assume the <b>title "nurse "</b> or in any manner imply that the person is a nurse except as provided in sections 457-8 and 457-8.5 or use the abbreviation "R.N." or any other words, letters, signs, or devices to indicate that the person using the same is a registered nurse.</p>
<p>Idaho</p>	<p>2003 Ida. ALS 188; 2003 Idaho Sess. Laws 188; 2003 Ida. Ch. 188; 2003 Ida. HB203 AMENDING SECTION 54-1401, IDAHO CODE    (2) REPRESENTATION TO THE PUBLIC. ONLY A PERSON WHO HOLDS A VALID AND CURRENT LICENSE TO PRACTICE PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THIS STATE OR A PARTY STATE PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 54-1409 AND 54-1418, IDAHO CODE, MAY USE THE <b>TITLE "NURSE," "REGISTERED NURSE," "GRADUATE NURSE" OR "PROFESSIONAL NURSE"</b> OR THE ABBREVIATION "R.N." OR ANY OTHER DESIGNATIONS, TITLES OR ABBREVIATIONS TO INDICATE THAT THE PERSON IS PRACTICING NURSING IN THIS STATE. ONLY A PERSON WHO HOLDS A VALID AND CURRENT LICENSE TO PRACTICE PRACTICAL NURSING IN THIS STATE OR A PARTY STATE PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 54-1407 AND 54-1418, IDAHO CODE, MAY USE THE TITLE "NURSE, " "LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE," OR THE ABBREVIATION "L.P.N." OR ANY OTHER DESIGNATIONS, TITLES OR ABBREVIATIONS TO INDICATE THAT THE PERSON IS PRACTICING NURSING IN THIS STATE.</p>

Minnesota	<p>Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2002, section 148.281, subdivision 1, is amended to read:</p> <p>Subdivision 1. [VIOLATIONS DESCRIBED.] It shall be unlawful for any person, corporation, firm, or association, to:</p> <p>(4) USE THE PROFESSIONAL <b>TITLE NURSE</b> UNLESS DULY LICENSED TO PRACTICE PROFESSIONAL OR PRACTICAL NURSING UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF SECTIONS 148.171 TO 148.285, EXCEPT AS AUTHORIZED BY THE BOARD BY RULE;</p>
Nebraska	<p>CHAPTER 71. PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE  ARTICLE 1. LICENSES; PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL  (p) PRACTICE OF NURSING  R.R.S. Neb. § 71-1,132.17 (2002)  § 71-1,132.17. Nursing; use of title; restriction</p> <p>(1) In the interest of public safety and consumer awareness, it is unlawful for any person to use the <b>title nurse</b> in reference to himself or herself in any capacity, except individuals who are or have been licensed as a registered nurse or a licensed practical nurse. A Christian Science nurse may refer to himself or herself only as a Christian Science nurse.</p>
New Mexico	<p>CHAPTER 61. PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL LICENSES  ARTICLE 3. NURSING  N.M. Stat. Ann. § 61-3-5 (2002)  § 61-3-5. License required. (Repealed effective July 1, 2004.)</p> <p>A. No person shall use the <b>title "nurse "</b> unless the person is licensed or has been licensed in the past as a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse under the Nursing Practice Act [61-3-1 to 61-3-30 NMSA 1978].</p>
North Dakota	<p>43-12.1-03. License required - Title - Abbreviation. Any person who provides nursing care to a resident of this state must hold a current license or registration issued by the board. It is unlawful for a person to practice nursing, offer to practice nursing, assist in the practice of nursing, or use any title, abbreviation, or designation to indicate that the person is practicing nursing or assisting in the practice of nursing in this state unless that person is currently licensed or registered under this chapter. A currently licensed advanced practice registered nurse or specialty practice registered nurse may use titles approved by the board; a currently licensed registered nurse may use the abbreviation "R.N."; a currently licensed practical nurse may use the abbreviation "L.P.N."; and an unlicensed assistive person with current registration may use the title identified by the employer. A person may not use the <b>title "nurse "</b> or be referred to as a "nurse" unless licensed by the board.</p>

<p>Texas (awaiting Gov. Signature)</p>	<p>Section 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 301, Occupations Code Section 301.1606. (4)(d) Unless the person holds a license under this chapter or as a vocational nurse under Chapter 302, a person may not use, in connection with the person's name: (1) the <b>title "nurse"</b>; or (2) any other designation tending to imply that the person is licensed to provide nursing care. Sec. 301.415. USE OF CERTAIN NURSING TITLES. Unless the person is practicing under the delegated authority of a registered nurse or is otherwise authorized by state or federal law, a person may not use, in connection with the person's name: (1) the title "nurse aide," "nurse assistant," or "nurse technician", or (2) any other similar title.</p>
--	---

6/17/03