



January 20, 2026

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## HOUSE BILL No. 1278

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DIGEST OF HB 1278 (Updated January 20, 2026 11:33 am - DI 147)

**Citations Affected:** IC 25-23.

**Synopsis:** Nursing matters. Requires the Indiana State Nurses Association, any time there is a vacancy or expiration of a term on the board of nursing, to recommend to the governor a list of qualified nurses for appointment. (Current law requires the Indiana State Nurses Association to recommend the list when there is a vacancy on the board.) Allows an institution that has been operating an eligible nursing program for at least five years to increase the enrollment in any eligible nursing program at any rate the institution considers appropriate.

**Effective:** July 1, 2026.

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### Barrett, Ledbetter, Isa, Shackelford

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January 6, 2026, read first time and referred to Committee on Public Health.  
January 20, 2026, amended, reported — Do Pass.

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HB 1278—LS 6838/DI 147





January 20, 2026

Second Regular Session of the 124th General Assembly (2026)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2025 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

## HOUSE BILL No. 1278

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning professions and occupations.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 25-23-1-3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.148-2023,  
2 SECTION 12, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
3 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. At any time there is a vacancy **or expiration of**  
4 **a term**, the Indiana State Nurses Association shall recommend to the  
5 governor a list of qualified nurses for appointment to the board in the  
6 number of not less than twice the number of:  
7 (1) nurse vacancies to be filled; **or**  
8 (2) **nurse appointments to be made.**
- 9 SECTION 2. IC 25-23-1-20.1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.148-2023,  
10 SECTION 16, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
11 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 20.1. (a) As used in this section, "eligible  
12 ~~associate or bachelor's degree registered~~ nursing program" means **an a**  
13 **practical nursing program or an** associate or bachelor's degree  
14 registered nursing program that:  
15 (1) is accredited by the board; and  
16 (2) has an annual rate of successful completion of the National  
17 Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) score of at least eighty

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1 percent (80%).

2 (b) As used in this section, "nursing program" means any of the  
3 following:

4 (1) A licensed practical nursing program.

5 (2) An associate degree nursing program.

6 (3) A diploma nursing program.

7 (4) A baccalaureate degree nursing program.

8 (c) ~~An eligible associate degree or bachelor's degree registered~~  
9 ~~nursing program that has been operating for at least five (5) years may~~  
10 ~~increase enrollment in the program at any rate the program considers~~  
11 ~~appropriate. An institution that has been operating an eligible~~  
12 **nursing program for at least five (5) years may increase the**  
13 **enrollment in any eligible nursing program at any rate the**  
14 **institution considers appropriate.**

15 (d) A nursing program that:

16 (1) is operated by a postsecondary educational institution, as  
17 defined in IC 21-7-13-6(a)(1);

18 (2) was accredited by the board on a date after June 30, 2020; and

19 (3) has been operating for at least one (1) year;

20 may increase its enrollment rate by not more than one hundred percent  
21 (100%).



## COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Speaker: Your Committee on Public Health, to which was referred House Bill 1278, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the House with the recommendation that said bill be amended as follows:

Page 1, between the enacting clause and line 1, begin a new paragraph and insert:

"SECTION 1. IC 25-23-1-3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.148-2023, SECTION 12, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. At any time there is a vacancy **or expiration of a term**, the Indiana State Nurses Association shall recommend to the governor a list of qualified nurses for appointment to the board in the number of not less than twice the number of:

(1) nurse vacancies to be filled; **or**

(2) **nurse appointments to be made.**".

Renumber all SECTIONS consecutively.

and when so amended that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to HB 1278 as introduced.)

BARRETT

Committee Vote: yeas 13, nays 0.

