

CHAPTER 168

AN ACT concerning advanced practice nurses and amending P.L.1940, c.153 and P.L.1948, c.110.

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. Section 8 of P.L.1940, c.153 (C.34:2-21.8) is amended to read as follows:

C.34:2-21.8 Issuance of certificates; prerequisites.

8. The issuing officer shall issue such certificates only upon the application in person of the minor desiring employment, and after having approved and filed the following papers:

(1) A promise of employment signed by the prospective employer or by someone duly authorized by him, setting forth the specific nature of the occupation in which he intends to employ such minor, the wage to be paid such minor, and the number of hours per day and days per week which said minor shall be employed.

(2) Evidence of age showing that the minor is of the age required by this act, which evidence shall consist of one of the following proofs of age and shall be required in the order herein designated, as follows:

(a) A birth certificate or certified transcript thereof or a signed statement of the recorded date and place of birth issued by a registrar of vital statistics or other officer charged with the duty of recording births, or

(b) A baptismal certificate or attested transcript thereof showing the date and place of birth, and date and place of baptism of the minor, or

(c) Other documentary evidence of age satisfactory to the issuing officer, such as a bona fide contemporary record of the date and place of the minor's birth kept in the Bible in which the records of the births in the family of the minor are preserved, or a passport, showing the age of the minor, or a certificate of arrival in the United States, issued by the Office of Immigration and Naturalization Services, showing the age of the minor, or a life insurance policy, provided that such other documentary evidence has been in existence at least one year prior to the time it is offered as evidence, and provided further that a school record of age or an affidavit of a parent or guardian or other written statement of age shall not be accepted, except as specified in paragraph (d) of this section.

(d) In the case none of the aforesaid proofs of age shall be obtainable and only in such case, the issuing officer may accept the school record or the school-census record of the age of the minor together with the sworn statement of a parent or guardian as to the age of the minor and also with a certificate signed by the physician or advanced practice nurse authorized to sign the statements of physical fitness required by this section, specifying what in his opinion is the physical age of the minor. Such certificates shall show the height and weight of the minor and other facts concerning his physical development which were revealed by such examination and upon which the opinion of the physician or advanced practice nurse is based as to the physical age of the minor. If the school or school-census record of age is not obtainable, the sworn statement of the minor's parent or guardian, certifying to the name, date and place of birth of the minor, together with a physician's or advanced practice nurse's certificate of age as hereinbefore specified, may be accepted as evidence of age. The issuing officer shall administer said sworn statement.

The issuing officer shall, in issuing a certificate for a minor, require the evidence of age specified in paragraph (a) of this section in preference to that specified in paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) of this section and shall not accept the evidence of age permitted by any subsequent paragraph unless he shall receive and file evidence that the evidence of age required by the preceding paragraph or paragraphs cannot be obtained.

(3) A statement of physical fitness, signed by a medical inspector employed by the applicable board of education, or any other physician licensed to practice medicine and surgery, or advanced practice nurse, setting forth that such minor has been thoroughly examined by such medical inspector, or such other physician licensed to practice medicine and surgery, or advanced practice nurse, that he either is physically fit for employment in occupations permitted for persons under 18 years of age, or is physically fit to be employed under certain limitations, specified in the statement. If the statement of physical fitness is limited, the employment certificate issued thereon shall state clearly the limitations upon its use, and shall be valid only

when used under the limitations so stated. The method of making such examinations shall be prescribed jointly by the Commissioner of Education and the State Department of Health and Senior Services; provided, however, no minor shall be required to submit to a physical examination, whose parent or guardian objects thereto in writing on the grounds such examination is contrary to his religious beliefs and practices.

(4) A school record signed by the principal of the school which the minor has last attended or by someone duly authorized by him, giving the full name, date of birth, grade last completed, and residence of the minor, provided, that in the case of a vacation certificate issued for work before or after school hours, such record shall also state that the child is a regular attendant at school, and in the opinion of the principal may perform such work without impairment of his progress in school, but such principal's statement shall not be required for the issuance of a vacation certificate for work during regular school vacations.

2. Section 15 of P.L.1948, c.110 (C.43:21-39) is amended to read as follows:

C.43:21-39 Limitation of benefits.

15. Limitation of benefits. Notwithstanding any other provision of the "Temporary Disability Benefits Law," P.L.1948, c.110 (C.43:21-25 et seq.), no benefits shall be payable under the State plan to any person:

(a) for the first seven consecutive days of each period of disability; except that if benefits shall be payable for three consecutive weeks with respect to any period of disability commencing on or after January 1, 1968, then benefits shall also be payable with respect to the first seven days thereof;

(b) for more than 26 weeks with respect to any one period of disability;

(c) for any period of disability which did not commence while the claimant was a covered individual;

(d) for any period during which the claimant is not under the care of a legally licensed physician, dentist, optometrist, podiatrist, practicing psychologist, advanced practice nurse, or chiropractor, who, when requested by the division, shall certify within the scope of the practitioner's practice, the disability of the claimant, the probable duration thereof, and, where applicable, the medical facts within the practitioner's knowledge;

(e) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1980, c.90.)

(f) for any period of disability due to willfully and intentionally self-inflicted injury, or to injury sustained in the perpetration by the claimant of a crime of the first, second, or third degree;

(g) for any period during which the claimant performs any work for remuneration or profit;

(h) in a weekly amount which together with any remuneration the claimant continues to receive from the employer would exceed regular weekly wages immediately prior to disability;

(i) for any period during which a covered individual would be disqualified for unemployment compensation benefits under subsection (d) of R.S.43:21-5, unless the disability commenced prior to such disqualification; and there shall be no other cause of disqualification or ineligibility to receive disability benefits hereunder except as may be specifically provided in this act.

3. Section 25 of P.L.1948, c.110 (C.43:21-49) is amended to read as follows:

C.43:21-49 Notice and claim for disability benefits.

25. (a) In the event of the disability of any individual covered under the State plan, the employer shall on the ninth day of disability issue to the individual and to the division printed notices on division forms containing the name, address and Social Security number of the individual, such wage information as the division may require to determine the individual's eligibility for benefits, and the name, address, and division identity number of the employer, together with a printed copy of benefit instructions of the division. Not later than 30 days after the commencement of the period of disability for which such notice is furnished, the individual shall furnish to the division a notice and claim for disability benefits under the State plan or for disability during unemployment. Upon the submission of such notices by the employer and the

individual, the division may issue benefit payments for periods not exceeding three weeks pending the receipt of medical proof. When requested by the division, such notice and proof shall include certification of total disability by the attending physician, or a record of hospital confinement. Failure to furnish notice and proof within the time or in the manner above provided shall not invalidate or reduce any claim if it shall be shown to the satisfaction of the division not to have been reasonably possible to furnish such notice and proof and that such notice and proof was furnished as soon as reasonably possible.

(b) A person claiming benefits under the State plan or for disability during unemployment shall, when requested by the division, submit at intervals, but not more often than once a week, to an examination by a legally licensed physician, dentist, podiatrist, chiropractor, advanced practice nurse or public health nurse designated by the division. In all cases of physical examination of a claimant, the examination shall be made by a designee of the division who shall be the same sex as the claimant if so requested by the claimant. All such examinations by physicians, dentists, podiatrists, chiropractors or nurses designated by the division shall be without cost to the claimant and shall be held at a reasonable time and place. Refusal to submit to such a requested examination shall disqualify the claimant from all benefits for the period of disability in question, except as to benefits already paid.

(c) All medical records of the division, except to the extent necessary for the proper administration of this act, shall be confidential and shall not be published or be open to public inspection (other than to public employees in the performance of their public duties) in any manner revealing the identity of the claimant, or the nature or cause of disability nor admissible in evidence in any action or special proceeding other than one arising under this act.

4. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved December 7, 2004.