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PART – I

HARYANA GOVERNMENT

LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

Notification

The 27th March, 2017

No. Leg.3/2017.— The following Act of the Legislature of the State of Haryana received the assent of the Governor of Haryana on the 21st March, 2017 and is hereby published for general information:-

HARYANA ACT NO. 3 OF 2017

THE HARYANA NURSES AND NURSE-MIDWIVES ACT, 2017

AN

ACT

to provide for the constitution of the Haryana Nurses and Nurse-Midwives Council for the registration of Nurses, Nurse-Midwives and for the registration of institutions imparting training and prescribing qualifications to such institutions in the State of Haryana and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Haryana in the Sixty-eighth Year of Republic of India as follows:-

1. (1) This Act may be called the Haryana Nurses and Nurse-Midwives Act, 2017.
(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,-
(a) “Council” means the Haryana Nurses and Nurse-Midwives Council established under section 3;
(b) “Executive Committee” means the Executive Committee of the Council constituted under section 13;
(c) “Government” means the Government of the State of Haryana in the administrative department;
(d) “Government Nursing Institution” means a nursing school or college located in the State, which is established and administered by the Central Government or Government or a local body, offering degree, diploma or certificate course in nursing, as recognized by the Indian Nursing Council;
(e) “institution” means an institution recognized by the Council for training nurses or Nurse-Midwives or both;
(f) “Nurse” means a person who holds a certificate in nursing granted by an institution and shall include a male nurse;
(g) “nursing course” means course for the award of a degree, diploma or certificate in nursing, as notified by the Government;
(h) “Nurse-Midwife” means a person who holds a certificate in General Nursing Midwifery or Auxiliary Nursing Midwifery granted by an institution;
(i) “prescribed” means prescribed by rules made under this Act;
(j) “Private Nursing Institution” means a private nursing school or college located in the State, which is not established and administered by the Central Government or Government or a local body, offering degree, diploma or certificate course in nursing as recognized by Indian Nursing Council and includes aided institution and unaided institution;
(k) “Registrar” means the Registrar appointed under section 16;
(l) “regulations” means regulations framed under this Act;
(m) “State” means the State of Haryana.

Short title and commencement

Definitions
Constitution of Council

3. (1) The Government shall, by notification constitute a body to be known as the Haryana Nurses and Nurse-Midwives Council to exercise the powers conferred on it and to perform functions assigned to it under this Act.

(2) The Council shall be a body corporate having perpetual succession and a common seal with power, subject to the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder to acquire, hold and dispose of property and to enter into contracts and shall in the said name sue and be sued.

(3) The headquarters of the Council shall be at Panchkula.

Composition of Council

4. The Government shall, by notification constitute a Council consisting of the following members, namely:-

(i) The Director General or Director Medical Education and Research Department, as the case may be, shall be the President;

(ii) Additional Director, Medical Education and Research Department shall be the Vice-President;

(iii) One representative or nominee of the Director General Health Services Haryana, Panchkula having experience in the field of Nursing shall be the ex-officio member;

(iv) Head of the Department or Professor of Gynaecology, Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Rohtak shall be the ex-officio member;

(v) Head of the Department or Professor of Gynaecology, Kalpana Chawala Government Medical College, Karnal shall be the ex-officio member;

(vi) Head of the Department or Professor of Gynaecology, Shaheed Hasan Khan Mewati Government Medical College, Nalhar, district Mewat shall be the ex-officio member;

(vii) Head of the Department or Professor of Gynaecology, Bhagat Phool Singh Government Medical College for Women, Khanpur Kalan, district Sonepat shall be the ex-officio member;

(viii) Principal, Government College of Nursing, Pandit Bhagwat Dayal Sharma University of Health Sciences, Rohtak shall be the ex-officio member;

(ix) Registrar of the Council shall be Member-Secretary;

(x) three members from the Principals or Heads of Departments of the Government Nursing Institutions;

(xi) two members from the faculty of the Private Nursing Institutions of the State;

(xii) one eminent nursing educationist having a minimum teaching experience of ten years to B.Sc. Nursing or Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing or M.Sc. Nursing.

Disqualification of member

5. A person shall not be qualified for being nominated as a member of the Council, if he,-

(i) is an un-discharged insolvent;

(ii) is of unsound mind and stands so declared by a competent court;

(iii) has been punished by the Council in any manner for infamous conduct in the profession;

(iv) has been removed or dismissed from the service of the Government or any institution;

(v) has been removed from the register maintained under this Act;

(vi) has been convicted of any offence involving moral turpitude;

(vii) has completed sixty-two years of age.
6. (1) The term of office of the member of the Council, other than the ex-officio members, shall be three years from the date on which he assumes office.

(2) A nominated member shall be eligible for re-nomination for a further period of three years or up to the age of sixty-two years, whichever is earlier.

7. (1) Any casual vacancy arising in the office of a nominated member of the Council by reasons of his death, resignation, removal, disability or otherwise, before the expiry of his term of office, shall be filled up within a period of six months from the date such vacancy occurs in such manner, as may be prescribed.

(2) Any person nominated under sub-section (1) shall hold office for the residual period of the term of the member in whose vacancy he has been nominated.

8. A member other than an ex-officio member of the Council shall cease to be a member—

(i) on his resignation;

(ii) on his absence from three consecutive meetings of the Council without intimation; or

(iii) on his becoming subject to any of the disqualifications under section 5.

9. A member other than ex-officio member may, at any time resign his office by giving notice in writing to the President and such resignation shall take effect from the date it is accepted by the President.

10. No act or proceedings of the Council shall be invalidated merely on the ground of any—

(i) vacancy or defect in the constitution of the Council; or

(ii) defect or irregularity in such act or proceeding not affecting the merits of the case.

11. (1) The Council shall meet at least once in a calendar year and may also meet as many times, as necessary to transact its business.

(2) The President, when present, shall preside over the meeting of the Council and in his absence, the Vice-President shall preside. In case both the President and Vice-President are absent, any other member elected by the members present from amongst themselves shall preside at such meeting. The Vice-President or member presiding for that meeting shall have all the powers of the President.

(3) The President shall preserve order and shall decide all points of order at or in connection with meetings. There shall be no discussion on any point of order and the decision of the President on any point of order shall be final.

(4) All transactions of business at a meeting shall be decided by the votes of the majority of members.

(5) The President shall, in addition to his vote as a member of the Council, have a second or casting vote in case of equality of votes.

12. The quorum for the transaction of business at a meeting of the Council shall be one-third of the total number of members including the President:

Provided that if within half an hour from the time fixed for the meeting, quorum is not complete, the President or Vice-President or the presiding member, as the case may be, shall adjourn the meeting to such hour of the day or some future day and time, as he may notify on the notice board and the website of the Council. The business which may have been brought before the original meeting shall be brought before the adjourned meeting and shall be disposed of in such meeting or any subsequent adjournment thereof, whether quorum is complete or not.

13. (1) The Council shall constitute an Executive Committee from amongst its members as may be necessary for performing such functions in the manner, as may be provided by regulations.

(2) The Executive Committee shall consist of five members, one of whom shall be amongst nominated members.

(3) The Executive Committee shall exercise and discharge such powers and duties of the Council, as may be conferred upon it by regulations.
14. The Council may constitute sub-committees from amongst its members for such purposes, as the Council considers necessary.

15. The non-official members of the Council shall be paid such fee and allowances for their attendance in connection with the meetings of the Council, as may be prescribed.

16. (1) The Government shall, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint a Registrar.
    (2) The method of appointment, salary, allowances and other terms and conditions of service of the Registrar shall be such, as may be prescribed.
    (3) Subject to the general superintendence and control by the Council, the Registrar shall be responsible for the performance of day-to-day affairs of the Council and such other functions, as may be assigned to him by the Council from time to time.
    (4) The Council may, with the previous approval of the Government, appoint such other officers and employees, as it may deem necessary, for assisting it in the administration.
    (5) The method of appointment, salary and allowances, discipline and other terms and conditions of service of officers and employees appointed by the Council shall be such, as may be prescribed.

17. (1) The Council shall maintain separate registers in such form and contain such particulars, as may be prescribed.
    (2) The registers shall be deemed to be public documents within the meaning of section 74 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 (Central Act 1 of 1872).

18. (1) If at any time, it appears to the Government that the Council has failed to exercise or abused any of the powers conferred on it by or under this Act or has failed to perform any of the duties imposed on it under this Act, the Government may, if it considers that such failure, exercise or abuse of power is of a serious nature, intimate the particulars thereof to the Council and if the Council fails to remedy such defects of exercise or abuse of powers within such period, as the Government may fix in this behalf, the Government may dissolve the Council and cause all or any of the powers and duties of the Council to be exercised and performed by such person and for such period, as it may think fit and thereupon the funds and property of the Council shall vest in the Government for the purposes of this Act, until a new Council is constituted as provided under section 3.

    (2) Where the Government has dissolved a Council under sub-section (1), it shall take steps for the constitution of a new Council under section 3 within six months from the date of such dissolution and on the constitution of such Council, the property and funds referred to in sub-section (1) shall vest in that Council.

19. Subject to the provisions of this Act and rules made thereunder, the Council shall exercise the following powers and perform the following duties, namely:–
    (i) fix the criteria for the establishment of institutions;
    (ii) recognize institutions;
    (iii) withdraw the recognition granted to institutions under this Act;
    (iv) maintain the register under this Act;
    (v) remove the names of persons under section 24;
    (vi) recognize the qualifications for the purpose of this Act;
    (vii) frame regulations;
    (viii) delegate its powers to the Executive Committee;
    (ix) conduct inspection of institutions;
    (x) fix the fees;
    (xi) maintain the fund of the Council;
    (xii) conduct admission to various institutions in the State and to prescribe such standards, facilities, syllabi, entry criteria including common entrance test etc., as may be deemed necessary to maintain proper standards in the nursing course:
(xiii) formulate uniform syllabi, course content, curricula and method of examinations for theory, practical and internal examinations, and its revision from time to time in respect of all the nursing courses throughout the State with the approval of the Indian Nursing Council;

(xiv) fix the educational qualifications for teaching staff for all diploma or certificate courses;

(xv) conduct common examinations for both theory and practical for all the nursing courses in the State except those conducted by other statutory authorities;

(xvi) award diplomas, certificates and other academic distinctions under a common seal;

(xvii) fix and collect the fees for theory and practical examinations;

(xviii) review periodically the nursing courses, the syllabi, educational standards for admissions and to take appropriate follow up measures including recommendations for dispensing of outdated courses, updating of courses or introduction of new courses with reference to emerging areas of manpower requirements;

(xix) fix the examination centers in the State;

(xx) take disciplinary action against the staff of the Council indulging in malpractices in the form of leakage of question papers, alteration of marks or any other such irregularities in connection with conduct of examinations;

(xx) derecognize an institution if the institution is found indulging in malpractice with reference to the process of the examination including the internal assessment marks, irregularities in attendance etc.;

(xxii) set standards of the staff, equipment, accommodation, training and other facilities;

(xxiii) any other matter which is to be or may be provided under this Act.

20. (1) The Council shall make bye-laws for the following purposes, namely:-

(a) for regulating the conditions under which such nurses, nurse-midwives registered in other States may be admitted to the register, on such other States granting reciprocal registration to persons registered on the register of the Council;

(b) for determining the manner in which all fees levied under this Act and all money received by the Council shall be accounted for, audited and applied for the purposes of this Act, and for regulating the expenditure of the Council.

(2) No bye-law made by the Council shall come into force until the same have been approved by the Governor.

(3) All bye-laws made under this section shall be published in the Official Gazette.

21. The following persons shall be entitled to be registered under this Act, namely:-

(i) Nurses, Nurse-Midwives who have undergone such course of training, passed such examinations held by the Council and fulfill such other conditions, as may be prescribed;

(ii) nurses, nurse-midwives holding corresponding certificate issued by authorities in other States in India and abroad, if such certificates are recognized by the Indian Nursing Council;

(iii) Nurses, Nurse-Midwives who are already registered at the commencement of this Act and fulfill such conditions, as may be prescribed;

(iv) Subject to such conditions and on payment of such fees, as may be prescribed, any person who proves to the satisfaction of the Council that he has been registered as a Nurse or Nurse-Midwife in any other State, may be registered as a Nurse or Nurse-Midwife, as the case may be, under this Act.
22. (1) Every person eligible for registration under section 21 shall apply for registration to the Registrar.

(2) An application for registration under this Act shall be in such form and shall be accompanied by such fee, as may be prescribed.

(3) Every person who applies for registration in respect of any additional recognized qualification shall pay such fee, as may be prescribed.

(4) Any person whose application for registration is rejected by the Registrar, may, within three months from the date of such rejection, file an appeal to the Council and the decision of the Council thereon shall be final.

23. (1) Every registration made under section 22 shall be valid for a period of five years and shall have to be renewed before the end of the fifth year failing which the name of the person shall be deemed to have been removed.

(2) On payment of renewal fee and fine, if any, the Registrar, shall in such manner, as may be prescribed, issue a certificate of registration to the person concerned.

24. (1) Subject to the provisions of this section, where the Council is satisfied after giving the person concerned a reasonable opportunity of being heard and after making such enquiry, as it may think fit, may order that the name of that person shall be removed from the register if:-

(a) his name has been entered in the register by error or on account of misrepresentation or suppression of any material fact;

(b) he has been convicted of any offence under this Act or has been guilty of the infamous conduct in the profession which, in the opinion of the Council, render him unfit to be on the rolls of the register; or

(c) it has been established that the certificate, diploma has been obtained through a fraudulent method or false certificate.

(2) An order under sub-section (1) may direct that any person whose name is ordered to be removed from register shall be ineligible for registration under this Act either permanently or for such period, as may be specified.

(3) A person aggrieved by an order under sub-section (1) may, within thirty days from the date of order, appeal to the Government and the decision of the Government shall be final.

(4) The certificate of registration of a person whose name has been removed from the register shall be considered invalid. Such person shall surrender the certificate to the Registrar, failing which a public notice shall be published in such manner, as may be prescribed.

25. (1) No person shall establish an institution or conduct any nursing course for preparing students to acquire any recognized qualification, without the prior recognition by the Council.

(2) A person shall apply for the recognition of an institution to the Registrar in such form along with such fee, as may be prescribed.

(3) On receipt of an application made under sub-section (2), the Registrar shall conduct such inspection and shall by order grant recognition or reject the application for recognition in such manner, as may be prescribed.

(4) An institution conforming to the standards fixed by the Council shall be given recognition under this Act.

(5) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), all institutions conducting nursing courses as on the date of commencement of this Act shall apply for recognition to the Council within three months from the date of commencement of this Act. If an institution applying for recognition does not conform to the standards fixed by the Council in this regard, temporary recognition may be granted to that institution subject to the condition that the facilities in accordance with the standards fixed by the Council shall be provided within a period to be fixed by the Council from the date of grant of temporary recognition.
(6) If an institution does not provide the facilities within the specified period in accordance with the standards fixed by the Council, the temporary recognition granted under sub-section (5) shall be withdrawn forthwith.

26. (1) The Council, as it may deem necessary inspect any institution for the purposes of granting recognition under this Act and may conduct periodical inspections of the recognized institutions to ensure that the required standards are being maintained by them.

(2) The Registrar or any officer authorized by the Council may enter into the premises of any recognized institution to make an inquiry or inspection as authorized by the provisions of this Act or of any rule or regulation or order made thereunder.

(3) The management and employees of a recognized institution shall be bound to offer to the officers of the Council such access at all reasonable times, to the premises of such institution and to all documents and materials, as may in the opinion of such officers be necessary to enable them to discharge their duties under this section.

(4) The Council shall have power to call upon the governing body or authority of any recognized institution to furnish report, returns or other information, as the Council may require.

27. Where on the basis of an inquiry or inspection by the Council, it is satisfied that an institution recognized under this Act has failed to comply with the terms and conditions of the recognition, may, by order withdraw such recognition:

Provided that before such withdrawal of recognition, the Council shall afford an opportunity of hearing to the institution concerned.

28. (1) All fee received, all income such as rent and profits derived from properties and funds vested in the Council, all grants and loans received, if any, from the Government, all endowments and donations received from any source, all other miscellaneous receipts and all remittances received in connection with the affairs of the Council, shall form the Fund of the Council, which shall be utilized for the purposes, laid down in this Act.

(2) The Fund of the Council shall be deposited in a Scheduled Bank as defined in the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 (Central Act 2 of 1934), as may be decided by the Council.

(3) The custody of the Fund, the payment of moneys therein, the withdrawal of moneys therefrom and all other ancillary matters shall be regulated in such manner, as may be prescribed.

29. The Fund of the Council shall be utilized for the following objects, namely:-

(i) payment of salary, allowances and expenses to employees, members and other office bearers of the Council;

(ii) payment of office expenses including rent, electricity, water and telephone bills, municipal taxes or any other Government taxes or dues;

(iii) any other expenses incurred in connection with the affairs of the Council or promotion of nursing education in the State.

30. (1) The annual report and accounts of the Council shall be approved by it and shall be got audited before the end of the September of the next year:

Provided that the accounts of receipt and expenses of the fee levied and collected shall be duly certified by the Council in the annual report.

(2) The audit shall be done by Chartered Auditor appointed by the Council from a panel approved by Comptroller and Auditor General and the Council shall bear the cost of such audit.

(3) The accounts of the Council as certified by the Auditor together with the audit report thereon shall be forwarded annually to the Government.

(4) The Government shall cause the accounts of Council together with the audit report thereon forwarded under sub-section (3) to be laid annually before the Legislative Assembly.
31. (1) No person other than a person registered under this Act shall practice as a Nurse or Nurse-Midwife.

(2) Any person who acts in contravention of this section shall on conviction be punishable,-

(a) in the case of a first offence with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months and with fine which may extend to fifty thousand rupees; and

(b) in the case of a second or subsequent offence, with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year, but which shall not be less than three months and with fine which shall not be less than two lakh rupees which may extend to five lakh rupees.

32. (1) No dispensary, hospital, infirmary, lying-in-hospital, sanatorium, operation theatre, nursing home, blood bank, medical laboratory or other similar institution shall employ any person unless such person is registered under this Act.

(2) Whosoever contravenes the provisions of sub-section (1) shall be punishable with fine which may extend to two lakh rupees.

33. (1) Save as provided by this Act or the rules made thereunder, no person shall confer, grant, issue or hold himself out as entitled to confer, grant or issue any diploma, certificate or other document stating or implying that the holder, grantee or recipient thereof is qualified to practice as a Nurse, Nurse-midwife.

(2) Whosoever contravenes the provisions of sub-section (1) shall, on conviction, be punishable with fine which may extend to five lakh rupees and if the person contravening is an association, every member of such association who knowingly or willfully authorizes or permits the contravention shall, on conviction, be punishable with fine which may extend to two lakh rupees.

34. (1) No person shall add to his name any title, letters or abbreviations, which imply that he holds a degree or diploma license or certificate as his qualification to practice as a Nurse, Nurse-midwife unless,-

(a) he actually received such valid degree, diploma or certificate; and

(b) such degree, diploma is recognized by any law for the time being in force in the State, or has been conferred or granted or issued by an authority appointed under this Act.

(2) Whosoever contravenes the provisions of sub-section (1) shall on conviction be punishable, in the case of first offence, with fine which may extend to fifty thousand rupees and in the case of second or subsequent offence, with fine which may extend to two lakh rupees.

35. Every member of the Council, all officers and employees appointed under this Act shall deemed to be public servants within the meaning of section 25 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 (Central Act 45 of 1860).

36. No act done or action taken, in exercise of any of the powers conferred by or under this Act, by the Government or the Council or the Executive Committee or the Registrar shall be called in question in any civil court.

37. No suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings shall lie against the Government or the Council or its member or officer or other employee in respect of anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under this Act.

38. The Council or the Registrar while exercising powers under this Act shall for the purposes of such functioning have the same powers as are vested in a civil court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (Central Act 5 of 1908), while trying a suit, in respect of the following matters, namely:-

(i) enforcing the attendance of any person and examining him on oath;

(ii) requiring the discovery and production of documents;

(iii) receiving evidence on affidavit;

(iv) issuing notices for the examination of witnesses;

(v) such other matters as may be prescribed.
39. The Government may, from time to time, issue such general or specific directions not in consistent with the provisions of this Act or the rules made thereunder to the Council, Executive Committee or the officer or employee connected with the affairs of the Council, as it may deem fit, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act, rules or orders made thereunder and the Council, Executive Committee or the officer or employee shall be bound by such direction.

40. If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Government may, by order, published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as may appear to be necessary or expedient for removing the difficulty:

Provided that no such order shall be made under this section after the expiry of a period of two years from the commencement of this Act.

41. (1) The Council may, with the previous approval of the Government, by notification in the Official Gazette, make regulations, not inconsistent with this Act or the rules made thereunder, for all or any of the following matters, namely:-

(a) the time and place at which the Council and the executive committee shall hold its meeting and the manner in which such meeting shall be convened and held;
(b) the courses and period of study and of practical training to be undertaken, the subjects of examination and standards of recognized qualifications;
(c) the recognition of any institution for the purpose of such training and the granting of degree, diploma etc., to candidates passing the examinations;
(d) minimum criteria to be fulfilled for admission to the courses and the procedure to be followed in the selection of candidates;
(e) the standards of staff, equipment, accommodation, training and other facilities for education in the institution;
(f) the conduct of professional examinations, qualifications of examiners and the conditions of admission to such examinations;
(g) the standards of professional conduct and etiquette and code of ethics to be observed by Nurses or Nurse-Midwives;
(h) the procedure and conditions for recognition of qualifications.

(2) All regulations made under this section shall be published in the Official Gazette.

(3) The Council may, with the previous approval of the Government, by notification in the Official Gazette, at any time, modify, amend or cancel any regulation.

42. (1) The Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules to carry out all or any of the purposes of this Act.

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, the Government may make rules providing for:-

(a) the sitting fees and other allowances payable to the President, Vice-President and other members of the Council;
(b) the method of appointment, qualification, salary allowance and other conditions of services of the Registrar;
(c) the form of the register and the particulars to be entered therein;
(d) the forms of applications and the fees to be paid;
(e) the form of the certificate to be issued;
(f) the payment of renewal fee and fine;
(g) the fee to be levied;
(h) the custody of the fund of the Council and of the ancillary matters;
(i) any other matter which has to be or may be prescribed by rules made under this Act.

(3) Every rule made under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be, after it is made, before the Legislative Assembly.
43. (1) As from the commencement of this Act, the Haryana Nurses Registration Council established and constituted under the Punjab Nurses Registration Act, 1932, shall cease to function.

(2) After the Haryana Nurses Registration Council ceases to function, all assets vesting in it and all liabilities subsisting against it, on the date of so ceasing shall devolve on the Council.

(3) All suits, prosecution and other legal proceedings instituted or which might have been instituted by or against the Haryana Nurses Registration Council immediately before the commencement of this Act may be continued or instituted by or against the Council.

(4) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, anything done or any action taken or purporting to have been done or taken, registration made by the Haryana Nurses Registration Council recognized under the Indian Nursing Council Act, 1947 (Central Act 48 of 1947), during the period commencing on the 1st May, 1971 and ending with the commencement of this Act under the provisions of the Punjab Nurses Registration Act, 1932 or rules framed thereunder, shall be deemed to have been made under the provisions this Act and the same shall not be called in question in any court of law or before any authority.

KULDIP JAIN,
Secretary to Government Haryana,
Law and Legislative Department.