

Judiciary Committee

HB 1920

Title: *An act relating to medical reports in guardianship proceedings by advanced registered nurse practitioners.*

Brief Description: *Allowing medical reports in guardianship proceedings by advanced registered nurse practitioners.*

Sponsors: *Representatives Carrell, Lantz, Cody and Campbell.*

Brief Summary of Bill

- *In a guardianship proceeding, allows an advanced registered nurse practitioner to submit the required health care report regarding the person's alleged incapacity.*

Hearing Date: *2/22/01*

Staff: *Edie Adams (786-7180).*

Background:

A court may appoint a guardian for an incapacitated person to help the person manage his or her personal or financial affairs. A person may be incapacitated if the individual is at a significant risk of financial harm because of an inability to manage his or her property or financial affairs or has a significant risk of personal harm because of an inability to provide for nutrition, health, housing, or physical safety. The court may establish a guardianship over the person, the person's estate, or both. The court may also establish a limited guardianship in which the guardian's duties are limited to specified areas.

In all guardianship proceedings, the court must receive a written report from either a physician or a licensed or certified psychologist who has expertise in the type of disability or incapacity the alleged incapacitated person is believed to have. The report must include information on the alleged incapacitated person's medical history, the physician's or psychologist's findings as to the conditions of the alleged incapacitated person, and opinions on the specific assistance the alleged incapacitated person needs.

An advanced registered nurse practitioner (ARNP) is a registered nurse who has received advanced training and performs an expanded role in providing health care services. ARNPs may receive advanced training in one or more specialty fields. Within the scope of the ARNP's specialty, the ARNP may examine and diagnose patients; admit patients to health care facilities; order, collect, perform, and interpret laboratory tests; develop a plan of care and treatment for patients; refer clients to other health care practitioners or facilities; and prescribe medications when authorized.

Summary of Bill:

In a proceeding for the appointment of a guardian or limited guardian, the report that must be submitted by a health care professional regarding the person's alleged incapacity may be submitted by an ARNP.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not Requested.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.