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CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR

KARYN E. POLITO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

ORDER AUTHORIZING NURSING PRACTICE BY GRADUATES AND SENIOR STUDENTS OF NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAMS

COVID-19 Order No. 24

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, I, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, acting pursuant to the powers provided by Chapter 639 of the Acts of 1950 and Section 2A of Chapter 17 of the General Laws, declared that there now exists in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts a state of emergency due to the outbreak of the 2019 novel Coronavirus ("COVID-19");

WHEREAS, on March 11, the COVID-19 outbreak was characterized as a pandemic by the World Health Organization;

WHEREAS, the number of presumptive positive and confirmed cases of COVID-19 continues to rise in the Commonwealth. As of April 8, 2020, the Department of Public Health had reported 16,790 cases of COVID-19, including 433 deaths, with all counties in the Commonwealth affected;

WHEREAS, the escalating COVID-19 public health emergency will produce an extraordinary demand on the Commonwealth's health care system that will require a degree of flexibility and responsiveness in the staffing of medical facilities that regular practices in the licensing of health care professionals cannot accommodate; and

WHEREAS, sections 7, 8, and 8A of Chapter 639 of the Acts of 1950 authorize the Governor, during the effective period of a declared emergency, to exercise any and all authority over persons and property necessary or expedient for meeting a state of emergency, including the authority to modify of the terms and conditions of licenses, permits, or certificates of registration issued by the Commonwealth or any of its agencies or political subdivisions;

NOW THEREFORE, I hereby order the following:

For the duration of the state of emergency, students who have graduated from registered nursing or practical nursing programs approved by the Board of Registration in Nursing ("Board") and senior nursing students who are attending the last semester of a Board approved registered nursing or practical nursing program are authorized to practice nursing and are exempt

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from the prohibitions against the unlicensed practice of nursing specified in G. L. c. 112, §§ 80, 80A, and 80B, provided that:

1. The individuals are employed by or providing health care services at the direction of a licensed health care facility or a licensed health care provider, are directly supervised while providing health care services, and the health care services are provided in response to the COVID-19 outbreak; and

2. The employing licensed health care facility or licensed health care provider has verified that the individual is a graduate of a Board approved registered nursing or practical nursing program or that the individual is a senior nursing student in his or her last semester at a Board approved registered nursing or practical nursing program.

The Board is directed to issue guidance, subject to my approval, to implement the terms of this Order, which shall include guidance regarding the appropriate supervision of nursing students.

This Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until rescinded or until the state of emergency is terminated, whichever happens first.

Given in Boston at 4:06 PM this 9th day of April, two thousand and twenty

CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR
Commonwealth of Massachusetts