

## **Bartolotta's nurse practitioner bill passes committee, heads to Senate floor**

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[http://www.timesonline.com/news/governmentandpolitics/bartolotta-s-nurse-practitioner-bill-passes-committee-heads-to-senate/article\\_594deebc-2545-11e7-8223-2f4ff23ede6d.html](http://www.timesonline.com/news/governmentandpolitics/bartolotta-s-nurse-practitioner-bill-passes-committee-heads-to-senate/article_594deebc-2545-11e7-8223-2f4ff23ede6d.html)

A bill sponsored by state Sen. Camera Bartolotta to expand the practice authority of nurse practitioners was approved by a committee Tuesday and now goes to the Senate floor for consideration.

Senate Bill 25, which Bartolotta, R-46, Carroll Township, Washington County, introduced in February, was approved by the Senate Consumer and Professional Licensure Committee in a 13-2 vote.

The legislation would allow advanced-practice registered nurses, or nurse practitioners, to practice in their field of specialty without a physician once they fulfill a three-year, 3,600-hour collaboration agreement with a physician.

Currently, nurse practitioners need to have collaboration agreements, or written business contracts, with two physicians to have a license.

Bartolotta has said the law hurts rural communities that lack doctors and could be receiving services from nurse practitioners.

“We just need to allow nurses to treat patients to the fullest extent of their knowledge, training and education,” Bartolotta said in a statement.

Bartolotta reiterated that nearly 35 percent of Pennsylvanians live in areas without adequate access to a primary-care physician.

The bill has received the support of the Hospital and Health system Association of Pennsylvania, the National Academy of Medicine and the AARP. The Pennsylvania Coalition of Nurse Practitioners has also endorsed the bill and held a rally with Bartolotta on Tuesday in the state Capitol to promote it.

Legislation similar to Bartolotta’s has been introduced in the House, where it is before the Professional Licensure Committee.

State Sen. Patricia Vance, R-Cumberland County, a former surgical pediatric nurse, introduced a previous version of Bartolotta’s bill in April 2015, and it was eventually passed by the Senate in a 41-9 vote last July, but it stalled once it went to the House.