

1-1 By: Frank, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Blanco) H.B. No. 548
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 3, 2021;
1-3 May 4, 2021, read first time and referred to Committee on Veteran
1-4 Affairs & Border Security; May 20, 2021, reported adversely, with
1-5 favorable Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 6,
1-6 Nays 0; May 20, 2021, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	<u>Campbell</u>	X		
1-10	<u>Hall</u>	X		
1-11	<u>Blanco</u>	X		
1-12	<u>Eckhardt</u>	X		
1-13	<u>Gutierrez</u>	X		
1-14	<u>Seliger</u>		X	
1-15	<u>Taylor</u>	X		

1-16 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 548 By: Blanco

1-17 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to the temporary licensing of certain military veterans as
1-20 health care providers to practice in underserved areas.

1-21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-22 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 155, Occupations Code, is
1-23 amended by adding Section 155.108 to read as follows:

1-24 Sec. 155.108. TEMPORARY LICENSE FOR MILITARY VETERAN TO
1-25 PRACTICE IN CERTAIN AREAS. (a) In this section, "active duty" and
1-26 "armed forces of the United States" have the meanings assigned by
1-27 Section 55.001.

1-28 (b) The board shall issue a temporary license to practice
1-29 medicine in a location described by Subsection (e) to an applicant
1-30 who:

1-31 (1) is licensed in good standing as a physician in
1-32 another state;

1-33 (2) is a veteran of the armed forces of the United
1-34 States who retired from or otherwise left military service not more
1-35 than one year before the application date for a license under this
1-36 section; and

1-37 (3) was, at the time of retiring from or leaving
1-38 military service:

1-39 (A) serving on active duty in this state; and

1-40 (B) authorized as a physician to treat persons
1-41 enlisted in the armed forces of the United States or veterans.

1-42 (c) An applicant for a license under this section is not
1-43 required to have passed the Texas medical jurisprudence
1-44 examination.

1-45 (d) The board may not issue a license under this section to
1-46 an applicant who:

1-47 (1) was discharged or separated from the armed forces
1-48 of the United States:

1-49 (A) on the basis of substandard conduct; or

1-50 (B) for any act of misconduct or moral or
1-51 professional dereliction;

1-52 (2) holds a medical license or a license to prescribe,
1-53 dispense, administer, supply, or sell a controlled substance that:

1-54 (A) is currently under active investigation; or

1-55 (B) is or was subject to a disciplinary order or
1-56 action or to denial by any jurisdiction; or

1-57 (3) has been convicted of, is on deferred adjudication
1-58 community supervision or deferred disposition for, or is under
1-59 active investigation for the commission of:

1-60 (A) a felony; or

- 2-1 (B) a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude.
- 2-2 (e) A physician licensed under this section may practice
- 2-3 only in:
- 2-4 (1) a health professional shortage area, as defined by
- 2-5 Section 157.051; or
- 2-6 (2) a medically underserved community, as defined by
- 2-7 Section 487.201, Government Code.
- 2-8 (f) A license issued under this section:
- 2-9 (1) expires 18 months after the date the license was
- 2-10 issued; and
- 2-11 (2) may not be renewed.

2-12 SECTION 2. Subchapter F, Chapter 301, Occupations Code, is

2-13 amended by adding Section 301.262 to read as follows:

2-14 Sec. 301.262. TEMPORARY LICENSE FOR MILITARY VETERAN TO

2-15 PRACTICE IN CERTAIN AREAS. (a) In this section, "active duty" and

2-16 "armed forces of the United States" have the meanings assigned by

2-17 Section 55.001.

2-18 (b) The board shall issue a temporary license to practice

2-19 nursing in a location described by Subsection (e) to an applicant

2-20 who:

2-21 (1) is licensed in good standing as a nurse in another

2-22 state;

2-23 (2) is a veteran of the armed forces of the United

2-24 States who retired from or otherwise left military service not more

2-25 than one year before the application date for a license under this

2-26 section; and

2-27 (3) was, at the time of retiring from or otherwise

2-28 leaving military service:

2-29 (A) serving on active duty in this state; and

2-30 (B) authorized as a nurse to treat persons

2-31 enlisted in the armed forces of the United States or veterans.

2-32 (c) An applicant for a license under this section is not

2-33 required to have passed the jurisprudence examination.

2-34 (d) The board may not issue a license under this section to

2-35 an applicant who:

2-36 (1) was discharged or separated from the armed forces

2-37 of the United States:

2-38 (A) on the basis of substandard conduct; or

2-39 (B) for any act of misconduct or moral or

2-40 professional dereliction;

2-41 (2) holds a nursing license or a license to prescribe,

2-42 dispense, administer, supply, or sell a controlled substance that:

2-43 (A) is currently under active investigation; or

2-44 (B) is or was subject to a disciplinary order or

2-45 action or to denial by any jurisdiction; or

2-46 (3) has been convicted of, is on deferred adjudication

2-47 community supervision or deferred disposition for, or is under

2-48 active investigation for the commission of:

2-49 (A) a felony; or

2-50 (B) a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude.

2-51 (e) A nurse licensed under this section may practice only

2-52 in:

2-53 (1) a health professional shortage area, as defined by

2-54 Section 157.051; or

2-55 (2) a medically underserved community, as defined by

2-56 Section 487.201, Government Code.

2-57 (f) A license issued under this section:

2-58 (1) expires 18 months after the date the license was

2-59 issued; and

2-60 (2) may not be renewed.

2-61 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

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