

By: Hinojosa
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S.B. No. 1429

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the use of standardized examinations by a school of nursing or educational program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 301, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Section 301.1571 to read as follows:

Sec. 301.1571. USE OF STANDARDIZED EXAMINATIONS. (a) The board shall adopt rules related to the use by a school of nursing or educational program offered in this state of a standardized examination prepared by a private entity. The rules must prohibit the use of a standardized examination as a graduation requirement or to deny students an affidavit of graduation. The rules may authorize the use of a standardized examination only to:

(1) familiarize students with computerized testing;

(2) assess potential or enrolled students for purposes

of:

(A) serving as one component of admissions criteria;

(B) evaluating a student's strengths and weaknesses for remediation purposes; or

(C) identifying students experiencing academic difficulties who require early remediation; or

(3) assess the effectiveness of the school of nursing or educational program by providing:

1 (A) trend data on student performance;

2 (B) a comparison of student performance with
3 nationwide averages;

4 (C) feedback of student knowledge of program
5 content;

6 (D) data to monitor the effectiveness of specific
7 course, level, and program curriculum revisions;

8 (E) a measure of student mastery of content; or

9 (F) an evaluation of the effectiveness of
10 curriculum content for revision purposes.

11 (b) The rules adopted under Subsection (a) must provide that
12 a score on a standardized examination may not account for more than
13 10 percent of a course grade for a course in a school of nursing or
14 educational program.

15 (c) A school of nursing or educational program that
16 determines a student is in need of academic remediation on the basis
17 of a standardized examination may not require the student to attend
18 any course offered by the examination provider.

19 (d) Failure to comply with the rules adopted under
20 Subsection (a) may subject the school of nursing or educational
21 program to disciplinary action, including removal of the school's
22 or program's approval status, as determined by the board.

23 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date
24 of this Act, the Texas Board of Nursing shall adopt the rules
25 required by Section 301.1571, Occupations Code, as added by this
26 Act.

27 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.