

By: Frank

H.B. No. 879

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to the licensing of certain military veterans as health  
3 care providers.

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

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

7 Sec. 155.108. LICENSE FOR MILITARY VETERAN TO PRACTICE  
8 MEDICINE. (a) In this section, "active duty" and "armed forces of  
9 the United States" have the meanings assigned by Section 55.001.

10 (b) The board shall issue a license to practice medicine to  
11 an applicant who:

12 (1) is licensed in good standing as a physician in  
13 another state;

14 (2) is a veteran of the armed forces of the United  
15 States who retired from or otherwise left military service not more  
16 than one year before the application date for a license under this  
17 section;

18 (3) was, at the time of retiring from or leaving  
19 military service:

20 (A) serving on active duty in this state; and

21 (B) authorized as a physician to treat persons  
22 enlisted in the armed forces of the United States or veterans; and

23 (4) has passed the Texas medical jurisprudence  
24 examination.

1        (c) The board may not issue a license under this section to  
2 an applicant who:

3            (1) was discharged or separated from the armed forces  
4 of the United States:

5                    (A) on the basis of substandard conduct; or

6                    (B) for any act of misconduct or moral or  
7 professional dereliction;

8            (2) holds a medical license or a license to prescribe,  
9 dispense, administer, supply, or sell a controlled substance that:

10                   (A) is currently under active investigation; or

11                   (B) is or was subject to a disciplinary order or  
12 action or to denial by another jurisdiction; or

13            (3) has been convicted of, is on deferred adjudication  
14 community supervision or deferred disposition for, or is under  
15 active investigation for the commission of:

16                   (A) a felony; or

17                   (B) a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude.

18        SECTION 2. Subchapter F, Chapter 301, Occupations Code, is  
19 amended by adding Section 301.262 to read as follows:

20        Sec. 301.262. LICENSE FOR MILITARY VETERAN TO PRACTICE  
21 MEDICINE. (a) In this section, "active duty" and "armed forces of  
22 the United States" have the meanings assigned by Section 55.001.

23        (b) The board shall issue a license to practice nursing to  
24 an applicant who:

25            (1) is licensed in good standing as a nurse in another  
26 state;

27            (2) is a veteran of the armed forces of the United

1 States who retired from or otherwise left military service not more  
2 than one year before the application date for a license under this  
3 section;

4 (3) was, at the time of retiring from or otherwise  
5 leaving military service:

6 (A) serving on active duty in this state; and

7 (B) authorized as a nurse to treat persons  
8 enlisted in the armed forces of the United States or veterans; and

9 (4) has passed the jurisprudence examination.

10 (c) The board may not issue a license under this section to  
11 an applicant who:

12 (1) was discharged or separated from the armed forces  
13 of the United States:

14 (A) on the basis of substandard conduct; or

15 (B) for any act of misconduct or moral or  
16 professional dereliction;

17 (2) holds a nursing license or a license to prescribe,  
18 dispense, administer, supply, or sell a controlled substance that:

19 (A) is currently under active investigation; or

20 (B) is or was subject to a disciplinary order or  
21 action or to denial by another jurisdiction; or

22 (3) has been convicted of, is on deferred adjudication  
23 community supervision or deferred disposition for, or is under  
24 active investigation for the commission of:

25 (A) a felony; or

26 (B) a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude.

27 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.