

By: Martinez

H.B. No. 992

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to nursing degree requirements for a licensed paramedic.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 51, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 51.907 to read as follows:

Sec. 51.907. ASSOCIATE NURSING DEGREE REQUIREMENTS FOR A LICENSED PARAMEDIC. (a) The governing board of each institution of higher education as defined by Section 61.003 that offers a nursing education program leading to an associate degree shall establish procedures by which a person who holds an associate, baccalaureate, or graduate degree in a science field from an accredited public or private institution of higher education and is a licensed paramedic under Section 773.0495, Health and Safety Code:

(1) will on application be accepted for admission to the institution as a student in the nursing education program, with priority over other applicants, at the earliest opportunity that enrollment capacity is available; and

(2) may earn an associate degree in nursing by completing only the core nursing courses, not including any non-nursing prerequisites for the core courses, required for the degree.

(b) A student must complete at least one-half of the required semester credit hours in nursing at the institution awarding the degree to earn a degree under this section.

1           SECTION 2. Section 51.907, Education Code, as added by this  
2 Act, applies beginning with the 2005 fall semester. Each  
3 institution of higher education to which that section applies shall  
4 establish the procedures required by that section not later than  
5 the 2006 spring semester.

6           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
7 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
8 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
9 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
10 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.