

By: Alonzo

H.B. No. 1709

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the licensing of health care practitioners from foreign jurisdictions.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle A, Title 3, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Chapter 112 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 112. REDUCED LICENSING REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 112.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Health care practitioner" means an individual issued a license, certificate, registration, title, permit, or other authorization to engage in a health care profession.

(2) "Licensing entity" means a department, commission, board, office, authority, or other agency of the state that regulates activities and persons under this title.

Sec. 112.002. APPLICABILITY. This chapter applies only to licensing entities and health care practitioners under Subtitles B-K and M.

[Sections 112.003-112.050 reserved for expansion]

SUBCHAPTER B. HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS FROM FOREIGN JURISDICTIONS

Sec. 112.051. REDUCED LICENSE REQUIREMENTS FOR HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS FROM FOREIGN JURISDICTIONS. (a) Each licensing entity shall adopt rules providing for reduced licensing

1 requirements for a health care practitioner licensed in good  
2 standing in a foreign jurisdiction.

3 (b) The rules adopted under this section must allow the  
4 health care practitioner to be issued a license after taking  
5 intensive and expedited courses at institutions of higher education  
6 in this state. In addition to courses provided by institutions of  
7 higher education, the rules may require that the health care  
8 practitioner complete additional continuing education courses  
9 before being issued a license.

10 SECTION 2. (a) In this section, "health care practitioner"  
11 and "licensing entity" have the meanings assigned by Section  
12 112.001, Occupations Code, as added by this Act.

13 (b) Each licensing entity required to adopt rules under  
14 Section 112.051, Occupations Code, as added by this Act, shall  
15 analyze the health care needs of geographical areas of this state  
16 that lack qualified health care practitioners of the type regulated  
17 by that licensing entity. The analysis shall focus on nonurban  
18 areas.

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