1-1 By: Madla S.B. No. 1000 (In the Senate - Filed March 4, 2005; March 14, 2005, read first time and referred to Committee on Health and Human Services; April 21, 2005, reported adversely, with favorable Committee 1-2 1-3 1-4 1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0; April 21, 2005, 1-6 sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1000 1-7

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and

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

relating to the regulation of the practice of nursing.

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

SECTION 1. Subsections (b) and (c), Section 105.002, Health

and Safety Code, are amended to read as follows:

- (b) In conjunction with the committee formed under Section 104.0155, to avoid duplication of effort, and to the extent funding is available through fees collected under <u>Section</u> [Sections] 301.155(c) [and 302.153(d)], Occupations Code, the council shall establish a nursing resource section within the center for the collection and analysis of educational and employment trends for nurses in this state.
- (c) If the nursing resource section established under Subsection (b) is funded from surcharges collected under Section 301.155(c) $\left[\frac{\text{and}}{\text{302.153}}\right]$, Occupations Code, the [Sections] council shall provide the Board of Nurse Examiners [and the Board of Vocational Nurse Examiners, as applicable, with an annual accounting of the money received from the board [those boards]. The council may expend a reasonable amount of the money to pay administrative costs of maintaining the nursing resource section.

SECTION 2. Subsection (e), Section 105.003, Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

(e) Data received <u>under this section</u> by the <u>nursing resource</u> section established under Section 105.002 [department under this section] that contains information identifying specific patients [persons] or health care facilities is confidential, is not subject to disclosure under Chapter 552, Government Code, and may not be released unless all identifying information is removed.

SECTION 3. Subdivisions (2) and (5)**,** Section 301.002,

Occupations Code, are amended to read as follows:

(2) "Professional nursing" means the performance [for compensation] of an act that requires substantial specialized judgment and skill, the proper performance of which is based on knowledge and application of the principles of biological, physical, and social science as acquired by a completed course in an approved school of professional nursing. The term does not include acts of medical diagnosis or the prescription of therapeutic or

corrective measures. Professional nursing involves:

(A) the observation, assessment, intervention, evaluation, rehabilitation, care and counsel, or health teachings of a person who is ill, injured, infirm, or experiencing a change in

normal health processes;

(B) the maintenance of health or prevention of

illness;

(C) the administration of a medication treatment as ordered by a physician, podiatrist, or dentist;

(D) the supervision or teaching of nursing;

administration, (E) the supervision, evaluation of nursing practices, policies, and procedures;

(F) the requesting, receiving, signing for, and distribution of prescription drug samples to patients at sites in which a registered nurse is authorized to sign prescription drug orders as provided by Subchapter B, Chapter 157; [and]

(G) the performance of an act delegated by a physician under Section 157.052, 157.053, 157.054, 157.0541,

157.0542, 157.058, or 157.059; and

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(H) the development of the nursing care plan.

(5) "Vocational nursing" means a directed scope of nursing practice, including the performance of an act that requires specialized judgment and skill, the proper performance of which is based on knowledge and application of the principles of biological, physical, and social science as acquired by a completed course in an approved school of vocational nursing. The term does not include acts of medical diagnosis or the prescription of therapeutic or corrective measures. Vocational nursing involves:

(A) collecting data and performing nursing assessments of the health status of an individual; focused

(B) participating in the planning of the nursing

care needs of an individual;

(C) participating in the development and modification of the nursing care plan;

(D) participating health in teaching and counseling to promote, attain, and maintain the optimum health level of an individual;

(E) assisting in the evaluation an individual's response to a nursing intervention and the

identification of an individual's needs; and

(F) engaging in other acts that require education as prescribed by board rules and policies, training, commensurate with the nurse's experience, continuing education, and demonstrated competency [, other than professional nursing, that generally requires experience and education in biological, education, physical, and social sciences sufficient to qualify as a licensed vocational nurse].

SECTION 4. Subsection (c), Section 301.155, Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c) The board shall assess a \$3 surcharge for a registered \$2 surcharge for a vocational nurse to the fee established by the board under Subsection (a) for a license holder to renew a license under this chapter. The board may use nine cents of the registered nurse surcharge and six cents of the vocational nurse surcharge to cover the administrative costs of collecting and depositing the surcharge. The board quarterly shall transmit the remainder [\$2.91] of each [the] surcharge to the [Texas] Department of <u>State</u> Health <u>Services</u> to be used only to implement the nursing resource section under Section 105.002, Health and Safety Code. The board is not required to collect the surcharge if the board determines the funds collected are not appropriated for the purpose of funding the nursing resource section.

SECTION 5. Subsections (c) and (d), Occupations Code, are amended to read as follows: 301.251, (d), Section

- (c) This section does not apply to a person entitled to practice [professional] nursing [or vocational nursing] in this state under Chapter 304[, as added by Chapter 1420, Acts of the 77th Legislature, Regular Session, 2001].
- (d) Unless the person holds a license under this chapter [or as a vocational nurse under Chapter 302], a person may not use, in connection with the person's name:

(1) the title "nurse"; or
(2) any other designation tending to imply that the person is licensed to provide nursing care.

SECTION 6. Section 301.351, Occupations Code, as amended by Section 1.027, Chapter 553, Acts of the 78th Legislature, Regular Session, 2003, and Section 5, Chapter 876, Acts of the 78th Legislature, Regular Session, 2003, is reenacted and amended to read as follows:

Sec. 301.351. DESIGNATIONS. (a) A person who holds a license as a registered nurse under this chapter:

- (1) is referred to as a registered nurse; and
- may use the abbreviation "R.N."
- A person who holds a license as a vocational nurse under (b) this chapter:
- (1)is referred to as a licensed vocational nurse or vocational nurse; and

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may use the abbreviation "L.V.N." or "V.N."

While interacting with the public in a [professional] nursing role, each [licensed registered] nurse shall wear a clearly legible insignia identifying the nurse as a registered or vocational nurse [and each licensed vocational nurse shall wear insignia identifying the nurse as a vocational nurse]. an The insignia may not contain information other than:

(1)the registered or vocational nurse designation;

(2) nurse's certifications, the name, academic degrees, or practice position;

the name of the employing facility or agency, or (3) other employer;

(4)a picture of the nurse; or

(5)any other information authorized by the board.

may (d) [(c)] The board adopt rules establishing

specifications for the insignia.

SECTION 7. Section 301.352, Occupations Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a) and (b) and adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

- (a) A person may not suspend, terminate, or otherwise discipline or discriminate against a nurse who refuses to engage in an act or omission relating to patient care that would constitute grounds for reporting the nurse to the board under Subchapter I. that constitutes a minor incident, or that violates this chapter or a board rule if the nurse notifies the person at the time of the refusal that the reason for refusing is that the act or omission:
- (1) constitutes grounds for reporting the nurse to the board; or
- is a violation of this chapter or a rule of the (2) board.
- (b) An act by a person under Subsection (a) does not constitute a violation of this section if a nursing peer review committee under Chapter 303 determines:
- that the act or omission the nurse refused to (1)engage in was:
- not conduct reportable to the board under (A) Section 301.403;

(B) a minor incident; or

(C) a violation of this chapter or a board rule;

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3-66 3-67 (2) that:

(A) the act or omission in which the nurse refused to engage was conduct reportable to the board, a minor incident, or a violation of this chapter or a board rule; and

the person: (B)

(i) rescinds any disciplinary οr discriminatory action taken against the nurse;

(ii) compensates the nurse for lost wages;

and

(iii) restores to the nurse any

benefits.

In this section, "minor incident" has the meaning (e) assigned by Section 301.419.

SECTION 8. Subchapter H, Chapter 301, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Section 301.353 to read as follows:

The Sec. 301.353. SUPERVISION OF VOCATIONAL NURSE. practice of vocational nursing must be performed under the supervision of a registered nurse, physician, physician assistant, podiatrist, or dentist.

SECTION 9. Subsection (a), Section 301.401, Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

- (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), the following are grounds for reporting a nurse under Section 301.402, 301.403, 301.405, or 301.407:
- [unnecessary or] likely exposure by the nurse of a (1)patient or other person to an unnecessary [a] risk of harm;
 - (2) unprofessional conduct by the nurse;
- 3-68 (3) failure by the nurse to adequately care for a 3-69 patient;

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failure by the nurse to conform to the minimum (4)standards of acceptable [professional] nursing practice; or

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(5) impairment or likely impairment of the nurse's practice by chemical dependency.

(f), Section 301.402, SECTION 10. Subsections (c) and Occupations Code, are amended to read as follows:

- (c) In a written, signed report to the appropriate licensing board or accrediting body, a nurse may report a licensed health care practitioner, agency, or facility that the nurse has reasonable cause to believe has exposed a patient to substantial risk of harm as a result of failing to provide patient care that conforms to the:
- (1) minimum standards of acceptable and prevailing professional [nursing] practice, for a report made regarding a practitioner; or

accreditation

(2) statutory, regulatory, or accreditation standards, for a report made regarding an agency or facility.

(f) A [registered] nurse may report to the nurse's employer or another entity at which the nurse is authorized to practice any situation that the nurse has reasonable cause to believe exposes a patient to substantial risk of harm as a result of a failure to provide patient care that conforms to minimum standards of acceptable and prevailing professional [nursing] practice <u>or to</u> statutory, regulatory, or accreditation standards. For purposes of this subsection, the employer or entity includes an employee or agent of the employer or entity.

SECTION 11. Section 301.403, Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 301.403. DUTY OF PEER REVIEW COMMITTEE TO REPORT. nursing peer review committee operating under Chapter 303 that has a ground for reporting a nurse under Section 301.401 shall file with the board a written, signed report that includes:

- (1) the identity of the nurse;
- (2) a description of any corrective action taken against the nurse;
- statement whether the nursing peer review (3) а committee recommends that the board take formal disciplinary action against the nurse; [and] a description of the ground for reporting;

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 in thich any deficiency in
 - (4)
- the extent to which any deficiency in care provided by the reported nurse was the result of a factor beyond the nurse's control rather than a deficiency in the nurse's judgment, knowledge, training, or skill; and

(6) any additional information the board requires. SECTION 12. Section 301.405, Occupations Code, is amended by amending Subsections (b), (c), (d), (e), and (g), and adding Subsection (h) to read as follows:

- (b) A person that terminates, suspends for more than seven days, or takes other substantive disciplinary action, as defined by the board, against a nurse, or a substantially equivalent action against a nurse who is a staffing agency nurse, because a ground under Section 301.401 exists to report the nurse shall report in writing to the board:
 - (1) the identity of the nurse;

the ground that preceded or other substantian (2) the termination, suspension, or other substantive substantially equivalent action; and disciplinary

(3) any additional information the board requires.

(c) $\overline{\text{Exc}}\text{ept}$ as provided by Subsection (g), each person subject to this section that regularly employs, hires, or otherwise contracts for the services of 10 or more nurses shall develop a written plan for identifying and reporting a nurse [in its service against whom a ground] under Section 301.401(a) [301.401 exists]. The plan must <u>provide</u> [<u>include an appropriate process</u>] for the review of the nurse and the incident by a nursing peer review committee established and operated under Chapter 303 [of any incident reportable under this section and for the affected nurse to submit rebuttal information to that committee]. Review by the committee is only advisory, but is required, even if the nurse is voluntarily or involuntarily terminated.

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(d) The <u>nursing</u> [review by the] peer review committee <u>shall</u> submit a report to the board that contains the information required by Section 301.403. A report is not required under this subsection if the nurse was terminated, either voluntarily or involuntarily, and elected not to participate in peer review [must include a determination as to whether a ground under Section 301.401 exists to report the nurse undergoing review. The peer review committee's determination must be included in the report made to the board under Subsection (b)].

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statute or regulation;

(e) The requirement <u>under Subsection (c)</u> that a [report to the board be reviewed by a] nursing peer review committee review the nurse and the incident [+

[(1) applies only to a required report; and

- $[\frac{(2)}{2}]$ does not subject a person's administrative decision to discipline a nurse to the peer review process or prevent a person from taking disciplinary action before review by the peer review committee is conducted.
- (g) A person is not required to develop a written plan under Subsection (c) for peer review of $[\div$
- $[\frac{(1)}{(1)}]$ a registered nurse, unless the person regularly employs, hires, or otherwise contracts for the services of at least five registered nurses $[\frac{1}{(1)}]$
- [(2) a vocational nurse, unless the person regularly employs, hires, or otherwise contracts for the services of at least five vocational nurses].
- (h) A plan developed under Subsection (c) must provide that a nurse who has been terminated, either voluntarily or involuntarily, shall have the opportunity to participate in peer review. If the nurse elects to not participate in peer review, the nurse waives any right to procedural due process under Section 303.002.
- SECTION 13. Subsection (b), Section 301.417, Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:
- (b) The board may disclose the information to the same extent that the board may disclose information relating to a complaint under Section 301.466 [use the information in connection with an investigation or disciplinary action against a license holder or in the subsequent trial or appeal of a board action or order. The board may disclose the information to:
- [(1) a licensing or disciplinary authority of another jurisdiction;
- [(2) a peer assistance program approved by the board under Chapter 467, Health and Safety Code; or
- [(3) a person engaged in bona fide research or another educational purpose if all information identifying any specific individual is first deleted].
- SECTION 14. Section 301.603, Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:
- Sec. 301.603. APPLICABILITY. Rules adopted by the board under Section 301.602 do not apply to:
- (1) an outpatient setting in which only local anesthesia, peripheral nerve blocks, or both are used;
- (2) [an outpatient setting in which only anxiolytics and analgesics are used and only in doses that do not have the probability of placing the patient at risk for loss of the patient's life-preserving protective reflexes;
- $\lceil \frac{(3)}{3} \rceil$ a licensed hospital, including an outpatient facility of the hospital that is located separate from the hospital;
- (5) (6) a facility maintained or operated by a state or local governmental entity;
 - (6) [(7)] a clinic directly maintained or operated by

the United States; or

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(7) [(8)] an outpatient setting accredited by:

(A) the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations relating to ambulatory surgical centers;

(B) the American Association for the

Accreditation of Ambulatory Surgery Facilities; or

(C) the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care.

SECTION 15. Subsections (a), (b), and (c), Section 303.003, Occupations Code, are amended to read as follows:

- (a) A nursing peer review committee [that conducts a peer review that involves only the practice of professional nursing] must have [registered] nurses as three-fourths of its members [and may have only registered nurses as voting members].
- (b) A nursing peer review committee that conducts a peer review that involves $[\frac{\text{only}}{\text{only}}]$ the practice of vocational nursing $[\frac{\text{must have registered nurses and vocational nurses as three-fourths of its members}]$, to the extent feasible, must include vocational nurses as members $[-\tau]$ and may have only registered nurses and vocational nurses as voting members.
- (c) A nursing peer review committee that conducts a peer review that involves the practice of [both] professional nursing [and vocational nursing:
- $\frac{(1)}{\text{nurses}} \text{ must have registered nurses } [\frac{\text{and vocational nurses}}{\text{nurses}}] \text{ as } \frac{\text{two-thirds}}{\text{tegistered nurses as three-fifths of its members};}$
- [(2) to the extent feasible must include vocational nurses as members;

 $[\frac{(3)}{}]$ may have only $[\frac{1}{3}]$

[(A) registered nurses and vocational nurses as voting members when a vocational nurse is being reviewed; and

[(B)] registered nurses as voting members [when a registered nurse is being reviewed].

SECTION 16. Subsections (a), (b), (c), and (h), Section 303.005, Occupations Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) In this section, "duty to a patient" means conduct

- (a) In this section, "duty to a patient" means conduct required by standards of practice or professional conduct adopted by the board for [registered] nurses [or the Board of Vocational Nurse Examiners for licensed vocational nurses]. The term includes administrative decisions directly affecting a nurse's ability to comply with that duty.
- (b) If a person who regularly employs, hires, or otherwise contracts for the services of at least 10 nurses requests one of those nurses to engage in conduct that the nurse believes violates a nurse's duty to a patient, the nurse may request, on a form developed or approved [produced] by the board, a determination by a nursing peer review committee under this chapter of whether the conduct violates a nurse's duty to a patient.
- (c) A nurse who in good faith requests a peer review determination under Subsection (b):
- (1) may not be disciplined or discriminated against for making the request;
- (2) may engage in the requested conduct pending the peer review;
- (3) is not subject to the reporting requirement under Subchapter I, Chapter 301[, or the rules of the board or the Board of Vocational Nurse Examiners]; and
- (4) may not be disciplined by the board [or the Board of Vocational Nurse Examiners] for engaging in that conduct while the peer review is pending.
- (h) A person is not required to provide a peer review determination under this section for a request made by [+
- $[\frac{(1)}{}]$ a registered nurse, unless the person regularly employs, hires, or otherwise contracts for the services of at least five registered nurses $[\frac{1}{2}]$
- [(2) a licensed vocational nurse, unless the person regularly employs, hires, or otherwise contracts for the services of at least five licensed vocational nurses].
 - SECTION 17. Section 303.008, Occupations Code, is amended

to read as follows:

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Sec. 303.008. REBUTTAL STATEMENT. (a) If a nursing peer review committee <u>makes</u> an <u>adverse</u> finding against a nurse [discloses information under Section 303.007(a) that could result in the reprimand, suspension, or termination of, or other disciplinary action against, a nurse, or itself recommends or takes such an action], the committee shall provide the nurse with a detailed description of [summary of information disclosed or] the

basis of its <u>finding</u> [action or recommendation].

(b) The peer review committee shall give the nurse the opportunity to offer rebuttal information and to submit a rebuttal statement of reasonable length. Any rebuttal statement must be included with \underline{any} [the] information disclosed by the committee under Section 303.007.
SECTION 18. Section

SECTION 18. Section 301.005, Subsection (c), Section 301.417, and Section 304.010, Occupations Code, are repealed.

SECTION 19. Subsection (c), Section 301.155, Occupations Code, as amended by this Act, applies only to a renewal of a license that expires on or after the effective date of this Act. The renewal of a license that expires before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law that existed when the license expired, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 20. The changes in law made by this Act regarding reporting requirements apply only to a report made on or after the effective date of this Act. A report made before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law that existed when the report was made, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 21. Sections 303.003 and 303.008, Occupations Code, as amended by this Act, apply only to a peer review commenced on or after the effective date of this Act. A peer review commenced before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law that existed when the peer review was commenced, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 22. To the extent of any conflict, this Act prevails over another Act of the 79th Legislature, Regular Session, 2005, relating to nonsubstantive additions to and corrections in enacted

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

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