

By: Howard of Travis

H.B. No. 1738

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to a study of nursing educational programs that require a  
3 single clinical competency assessment.

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

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

7 Sec. 301.1571. STUDY OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS REQUIRING  
8 SINGLE CLINICAL COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT. (a) The board shall study  
9 whether graduates of a nursing educational program that requires  
10 students to pass only a single clinical competency assessment are  
11 able after graduation to practice in a clinical setting at a level  
12 substantially equivalent to the graduates of a nursing educational  
13 program that requires students to complete a required number of  
14 supervised clinical learning experiences involving multiple,  
15 ongoing assessments and feedback.

16 (b) In conducting the study, the board may consider a  
17 nursing educational program that requires students to pass only a  
18 single clinical competency assessment only if the program:

19 (1) has been requiring only a single clinical  
20 competency assessment for at least 10 years;

21 (2) has students who reside in this state;

22 (3) has graduates who have been considered by the  
23 board to be eligible to apply for a registered nurse license as a  
24 result of graduating from the program on or before January 1, 2007;

1 and

2 (4) conducts the single clinical competency  
3 assessment at a facility located in this state under the  
4 supervision of a registered nurse who holds a master's or doctoral  
5 degree in nursing and who has at least five years of experience on  
6 the faculty of a nursing program approved to operate in this state.

7 (c) If a nursing educational program that requires students  
8 to pass only a single clinical competency assessment has students  
9 who are already licensed registered nurses, the study may consider  
10 only students who are not already licensed registered nurses.

11 (d) The board shall begin the study, including the research  
12 design and the compilation of results, not later than January 1,  
13 2010, and shall conclude the study not later than June 30, 2012,  
14 except that the board may extend the study until June 30, 2014, if  
15 additional time is needed to complete the study or compile the  
16 results.

17 (e) If the study finds that graduates of a nursing  
18 educational program that requires students to pass only a single  
19 clinical competency assessment are not able after graduation to  
20 practice in a clinical setting at a level substantially equivalent  
21 to the graduates of a nursing educational program that requires  
22 students to complete a required number of supervised clinical  
23 learning experiences, the board shall allow a program participating  
24 in the study to modify its program, not later than December 31,  
25 2017, to meet any standards required for graduates of the program to  
26 be eligible to apply to the board for a license. The board may not  
27 disqualify graduates of a program that is modifying its program

1 under this subsection from receiving a license under this chapter  
2 before December 31, 2017.

3 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.