

By: Pitts

H.B. No. 3230

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the approval of out-of-state nursing education programs
3 by the Texas Board of Nursing.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 301.157, Occupations Code, is amended by
6 amending Subsection (d-4) and adding Subsection (d-8) to read as
7 follows:

8 (d-4) The board may recognize and accept as approved under
9 this section a school of nursing or educational program operated in
10 another state and approved by a state board of nursing or other
11 regulatory body of another state. The board shall develop policies
12 to ensure that the other state board's standards are substantially
13 equivalent to the board's standards.

14 (d-8) A nursing program is considered to meet standards
15 substantially equivalent to the board's standards if the program:

16 (1) is part of an institution of higher education in
17 another state that is approved by the regulatory authorities of
18 that state;

19 (2) holds regional accreditation by an accrediting
20 body recognized by the United States secretary of education and the
21 Council for Higher Education Accreditation;

22 (3) holds specialty accreditation by an accrediting
23 body recognized by the United States secretary of education and the
24 Council for Higher Education Accreditation, including the National

1 League for Nursing Accrediting Commission;

2 (4) requires for admission that an applicant be a
3 licensed practical or vocational nurse, military service corpsman,
4 paramedic, or the holder of a degree in a clinically oriented health
5 care field with demonstrated experience providing direct patient
6 care; and

7 (5) graduates students who:

8 (A) achieve program outcomes determined by the
9 program's faculty, including passing a nursing examination that
10 tests knowledge essential to beginning practice as a registered
11 nurse;

12 (B) pass an examination, developed by the
13 program's faculty subject matter experts, that measures clinical
14 competencies essential to beginning practice as a registered nurse
15 and meets nationally recognized standards; and

16 (C) pass the National Council Licensure
17 Examination for Registered Nurses at a rate equivalent to the
18 passage rate for students of board-approved in-state programs.

19 SECTION 2. 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, 2009.