

By: Deuell

S.B. No. 1397

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to establishing the equivalency of competency-based  
3 nursing education programs in other states that meet standards of  
4 quality equivalent to nursing education programs approved by the  
5 Texas Board of Nursing.

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

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

10 (d-4) The board may recognize and accept as approved under  
11 this section a school of nursing or educational program operated in  
12 another state and approved by a state board of nursing or other  
13 regulatory body of that ~~[another]~~ state. The board shall develop  
14 policies to ensure that the other state's ~~[state board's]~~ standards  
15 are substantially equivalent to the board's standards. For  
16 purposes of this subsection, a nursing program shall be deemed to  
17 meet standards substantially equivalent to the board's standards if  
18 it:

19 (1) is part of an institution of higher education  
20 located outside this state that is approved by the appropriate  
21 regulatory authorities of that state;

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

1           (3) holds specialty accreditation by an accrediting  
2 body recognized by the United States secretary of education and the  
3 Council for Higher Education Accreditation, including the National  
4 League for Nursing Accrediting Commission;

5           (4) requires program applicants to be a licensed  
6 practical or vocational nurse, military service corpsman, or  
7 paramedic or to hold a degree in a clinically oriented health care  
8 field with demonstrated experience providing direct patient care;  
9 and

10           (5) graduates students who:

11           (A) achieve faculty-determined program outcomes  
12 including passing criterion-referenced examinations of nursing  
13 knowledge essential to beginning a registered nurse practice,  
14 including a transition to the role of registered nurse;

15           (B) pass a criterion-referenced summative  
16 performance examination developed by faculty subject matter  
17 experts that measures clinical competencies essential to beginning  
18 a registered nurse practice and that meets nationally recognized  
19 standards for educational testing, including the educational  
20 testing standards of the American Educational Research  
21 Association, the American Psychological Association, and the  
22 National Council on Measurement in Education; and

23           (C) pass the National Council Licensure  
24 Examination for Registered Nurses at a rate equivalent to the pass  
25 rate for students of approved in-state programs.

26           (d-4-a) An applicant for licensure under this chapter who  
27 has successfully completed a professional nursing education

1 program in another state meeting the requirements of Subsection  
2 (d-4) and who satisfies the other requirements of this chapter is  
3 eligible for licensure as a registered nurse.

4         SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
5 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
6 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
7 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
8 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.