

1-1 By: Deuell S.B. No. 1397
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 5, 2009; March 17, 2009, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Health and Human Services;
1-4 April 20, 2009, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 8,
1-5 Nays 1; April 20, 2009, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to establishing the equivalency of competency-based
1-9 nursing education programs in other states that meet standards of
1-10 quality equivalent to nursing education programs approved by the
1-11 Texas Board of Nursing.

1-12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-13 SECTION 1. Section 301.157, Occupations Code, is amended by
1-14 amending Subsection (d-4) and adding Subsection (d-4-a) to read as
1-15 follows:

1-16 (d-4) The board may recognize and accept as approved under
1-17 this section a school of nursing or educational program operated in
1-18 another state and approved by a state board of nursing or other
1-19 regulatory body of that ~~another~~ state. The board shall develop
1-20 policies to ensure that the other state's ~~state board's~~ standards
1-21 are substantially equivalent to the board's standards. For
1-22 purposes of this subsection, a nursing program shall be deemed to
1-23 meet standards substantially equivalent to the board's standards if
1-24 it:

1-25 (1) is part of an institution of higher education
1-26 located outside this state that is approved by the appropriate
1-27 regulatory authorities of that state;

1-28 (2) holds regional accreditation by an accrediting
1-29 body recognized by the United States secretary of education and the
1-30 Council for Higher Education Accreditation;

1-31 (3) holds specialty accreditation by an accrediting
1-32 body recognized by the United States secretary of education and the
1-33 Council for Higher Education Accreditation, including the National
1-34 League for Nursing Accrediting Commission;

1-35 (4) requires program applicants to be a licensed
1-36 practical or vocational nurse, military service corpsman, or
1-37 paramedic or to hold a degree in a clinically oriented health care
1-38 field with demonstrated experience providing direct patient care;
1-39 and

1-40 (5) graduates students who:
1-41 (A) achieve faculty-determined program outcomes
1-42 including passing criterion-referenced examinations of nursing
1-43 knowledge essential to beginning a registered nurse practice,
1-44 including a transition to the role of registered nurse;

1-45 (B) pass a criterion-referenced summative
1-46 performance examination developed by faculty subject matter
1-47 experts that measures clinical competencies essential to beginning
1-48 a registered nurse practice and that meets nationally recognized
1-49 standards for educational testing, including the educational
1-50 testing standards of the American Educational Research
1-51 Association, the American Psychological Association, and the
1-52 National Council on Measurement in Education; and

1-53 (C) pass the National Council Licensure
1-54 Examination for Registered Nurses at a rate equivalent to the pass
1-55 rate for students of approved in-state programs.

1-56 (d-4-a) An applicant for licensure under this chapter who
1-57 has successfully completed a professional nursing education
1-58 program in another state meeting the requirements of Subsection
1-59 (d-4) and who satisfies the other requirements of this chapter is
1-60 eligible for licensure as a registered nurse.

1-61 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
1-62 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
1-63 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
1-64 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

2-1 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

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