

By: S. Davis of Harris

H.B. No. 484

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the requirements for issuance of a license to practice
3 orthotics and prosthetics.

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

5 SECTION 1. Sections 605.252(b) and (c), Occupations Code,
6 are amended to read as follows:

7 (b) The requirements for a license established by board rule
8 must include the requirement that the applicant hold:

9 (1) a bachelor's or graduate degree in orthotics and
10 prosthetics from:

11 (A) an education program recognized and
12 accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health
13 Education Programs that is offered at an institution of higher
14 education; or

15 (B) a practitioner education program that has
16 education standards that are equivalent to or exceed the standards
17 adopted by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health
18 Education Programs; or

19 (2) a bachelor's degree in another subject and an
20 orthotic or prosthetic certificate issued by a practitioner
21 education program:

22 (A) recognized and accredited by the Commission
23 on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs; or

24 (B) that has education standards that are

1 equivalent to or exceed the standards adopted by the Commission on
2 Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs.

3 (c) To meet the clinical residency requirements for a
4 license, the applicant must complete a a [~~at least 1,900 hours of~~]
5 professional clinical residency that meets the requirements
6 established by board rule [~~under the direct supervision of a~~
7 ~~licensed orthotist, licensed prosthetist, or a licensed~~
8 ~~prosthetist orthotist in the discipline for which licensure is~~
9 ~~sought~~].

10 SECTION 2. Section 605.258(a), Occupations Code, is amended
11 to read as follows:

12 (a) The board may issue a student registration certificate
13 to an individual who is working toward fulfilling the requirements
14 for a license as an orthotist, prosthetist, or prosthetist
15 orthotist and:

16 (1) holds either:

17 (A) [~~(1)~~] a bachelor's or graduate degree in
18 orthotics and prosthetics from:

19 (i) [~~(A)~~] an education program recognized
20 and accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health
21 Education Programs that is offered at an institution of higher
22 education; or

23 (ii) [~~(B)~~] a practitioner education
24 program that has education standards that are equivalent to or
25 exceed the standards adopted by the Commission on Accreditation of
26 Allied Health Education Programs; or

27 (B) [~~(2)~~] a bachelor's degree in another

1 subject and an orthotic or prosthetic certificate issued by a
2 practitioner education program:

3 (i) [~~(A)~~] recognized and accredited by the
4 Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs; or

5 (ii) [~~(B)~~] that has education standards
6 that are equivalent to or exceed the standards adopted by the
7 Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs; or

8 (2) is a student who:

9 (A) is currently enrolled in a graduate program
10 in this state in orthotics and prosthetics that:

11 (i) is recognized and accredited by the
12 Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs;
13 and

14 (ii) incorporates a professional clinical
15 residency that meets the requirements of rules adopted under
16 Section 605.252(c); and

17 (B) submits to the board a written certification
18 from the graduate program in which the student is enrolled that the
19 student has successfully completed the academic prerequisites to
20 enter a professional clinical residency.

21 SECTION 3. The changes in law made by this Act to Chapter
22 605, Occupations Code, apply only to an application for a license or
23 student registration certificate submitted to the Texas Board of
24 Orthotics and Prosthetics on or after January 1, 2014. An
25 application submitted before January 1, 2014, is governed by the
26 law in effect on the date the application was submitted, and the
27 former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

1 SECTION 4. The Texas Board of Orthotics and Prosthetics
2 shall adopt rules to implement the changes in law made by this Act
3 not later than December 1, 2013.

4 SECTION 5. 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, 2013.