

By: Rodriguez of Travis

H.B. No. 3349

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to accelerated educational programs offered by public
3 institutions of higher education to qualified persons seeking
4 licensure as physician assistants.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 61.0518 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 61.0518. ACCELERATED PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAMS FOR
9 QUALIFIED PERSONS. (a) An institution of higher education that
10 offers an accredited educational program for physician assistants
11 may offer one or more accelerated programs or program tracks to
12 allow eligible persons with previous medical education, training,
13 or experience as described by Subsection (b) to:

14 (1) bypass elements of a regular physician assistant
15 educational program that duplicate the previous medical education,
16 training, or experience of those persons; and

17 (2) complete the remaining program elements in a
18 manner that facilitates the expeditious licensure of those persons
19 as physician assistants.

20 (b) To be eligible to enroll in an accelerated educational
21 program for physician assistants under this section, a person must
22 provide the institution of higher education with proof of the
23 following:

24 (1) a medical degree obtained from a foreign medical

1 school that is recognized by the appropriate governmental agency in
2 the country in which the school is located; or

3 (2) any work or training with a health-related
4 component, if the work was performed or the training was obtained
5 while the person served as a member of:

6 (A) the armed forces of the United States;

7 (B) the Texas National Guard or the national
8 guard of another state; or

9 (C) a reserve component of the armed forces of
10 the United States.

11 (c) The board by rule shall prescribe for accelerated
12 programs offered under this section additional categories of
13 eligibility based on relevant previous education, training, or
14 experience. An institution of higher education that offers one or
15 more accelerated programs to persons who establish eligibility
16 under Subsection (b)(1) or (2) may choose to offer accelerated
17 programs to persons who establish eligibility under other
18 categories prescribed by board rule.

19 (d) An institution of higher education must obtain all
20 appropriate accreditations and approvals before offering an
21 accelerated educational program under this section. Each
22 accelerated program must sufficiently prepare students to take and
23 pass the licensing examination described by Section 204.153(a)(2),
24 Occupations Code.

25 (e) This section does not affect the authority of a private
26 or independent institution of higher education to offer an
27 accelerated accredited educational program to train physician

1 assistants.

2 SECTION 2. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
3 shall adopt rules as required by Section 61.0518, Education Code,
4 as added by this Act, as soon as practicable after the effective
5 date of this Act.

6 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
7 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
8 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
9 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
10 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.