

AN ACT

relating to the requirements for issuance of a license to practice orthotics and prosthetics.

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

SECTION 1. Subsections (b) and (c), Section 605.252, Occupations Code, are amended to read as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

(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 [at least 1,900 hours of]
5 professional clinical residency that meets the requirements
6 established by board rule and is conducted under the direct
7 supervision of a licensed orthotist, licensed prosthetist, or a
8 licensed prosthetist orthotist in the discipline for which
9 licensure is sought. The clinical residency requirements adopted
10 by the board must be equivalent to or exceed the standards set by
11 the National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education.

12 SECTION 2. Subsection (a), Section 605.258, Occupations
13 Code, is amended to read as follows:

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

18 (1) holds either:

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

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

25 (ii) ~~[(B)]~~ a practitioner education
26 program that has education standards that are equivalent to or
27 exceed the standards adopted by the Commission on Accreditation of

1 Allied Health Education Programs; or

2 (B) [~~(2)~~] a bachelor's degree in another
3 subject and an orthotic or prosthetic certificate issued by a
4 practitioner education program:

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

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

10 (2) is a student who:

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

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

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

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

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

1 law in effect immediately before the effective date of this Act, and
2 the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

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

6 SECTION 5. 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.

S.B. No. 141

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 141 passed the Senate on March 13, 2013, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 141 passed the House on May 22, 2013, by the following vote: Yeas 147, Nays 0, one present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor