

By: Johnson of Dallas

H.B. No. 220

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to a person's eligibility to take the state's bar
3 examination and to supreme court approval of law schools for the
4 purpose of establishing eligibility.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 82.024, Government Code, is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 Sec. 82.024. LAW STUDY REQUIREMENTS; ELIGIBILITY FOR
9 EXAMINATION. (a) A person who has completed the prescribed study
10 in an approved law school has satisfied the law study requirements
11 for taking the examination for a license to practice law and is
12 eligible to take the bar examination.

13 (b) An approved law school is one that is approved by the
14 supreme court under Section 82.025 or other law for the [~~time~~]
15 period designated by the court as maintaining the additional
16 standards to retain approval.

17 SECTION 2. Subchapter B, Chapter 82, Government Code, is
18 amended by adding Section 82.0242 to read as follows:

19 Sec. 82.0242. LAW SCHOOL GRADUATES; ELIGIBILITY FOR
20 EXAMINATION. (a) Notwithstanding Section 82.0241, a person who
21 graduates from a law school at an institution of higher education,
22 as defined by Section 61.003, Education Code, is eligible to take
23 the state's bar examination regardless of whether the person has
24 completed law study in an approved law school as required by Section

1 82.024 if the person satisfies all other requirements to be
2 eligible to take the examination.

3 (b) The same procedures and deadlines apply to a person
4 eligible to take the state's bar examination under this section as
5 apply to a person who has completed the law study requirements in
6 Section 82.024.

7 SECTION 3. Subchapter B, Chapter 82, Government Code, is
8 amended by adding Section 82.025 to read as follows:

9 Sec. 82.025. LAW SCHOOL APPROVAL. The supreme court shall
10 adopt rules and procedures for a law school to become an approved
11 law school for purposes of Section 82.024. Rules and procedures
12 adopted under this section must provide for the supreme court's
13 approval of a law school at an institution of higher education, as
14 defined by Section 61.003, Education Code, regardless of whether
15 the law school is approved by the American Bar Association.

16 SECTION 4. Not later than September 1, 2018, the Supreme
17 Court of Texas shall adopt rules and procedures necessary to
18 implement Section 82.025, Government Code, as added by this Act.

19 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
20 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
21 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
22 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
23 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.