

By: White

H.B. No. 927

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the practice of certain advanced practice registered nurses in certain rural counties; authorizing a fee.

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

ARTICLE 1. PRACTICE OF ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES IN CERTAIN RURAL COUNTIES

SECTION 1.001. Chapter 487, Government Code, is amended by adding Subchapter S to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER S. REQUEST TO AUTHORIZE PRACTICE OF ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES IN CERTAIN RURAL COUNTIES

Sec. 487.851. IDENTIFICATION OF HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREAS. (a) Not later than October 1 of each year, the office shall:

(1) identify the rural counties of this state that are determined to be health professional shortage areas by the United States Department of Health and Human Services; and

(2) provide a list of the counties identified under Subdivision (1) to:

(A) each county judge in this state; and

(B) the Texas Board of Nursing.

(b) The department by rule shall establish the criteria for a county to be identified as a rural county for the purposes of Subsection (a).

Sec. 487.852. REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION OF PRACTICE OF

1 ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES. Not later than December 1 of
2 each year, the county commissioners court of a county identified
3 under Section 487.851(a)(1) or of an adjacent county may direct the
4 county judge to submit to the Texas Board of Nursing a written
5 request for the board to authorize the practice in the county of
6 advanced practice registered nurses under Section 301.357,
7 Occupations Code.

8 SECTION 1.002. Section 301.002, Occupations Code, is
9 amended by amending Subdivision (2) and adding Subdivisions (6),
10 (7), (8), (9), and (10) to read as follows:

11 (2) "Professional nursing" means the performance of an
12 act that requires substantial specialized judgment and skill, the
13 proper performance of which is based on knowledge and application
14 of the principles of biological, physical, and social science as
15 acquired by a completed course in an approved school of
16 professional nursing. The term does not include acts of medical
17 diagnosis or the prescription of therapeutic or corrective
18 measures, except with respect to an advanced practice registered
19 nurse authorized to practice under Section 301.357. Professional
20 nursing involves:

21 (A) the observation, assessment, intervention,
22 evaluation, rehabilitation, care and counsel, or health teachings
23 of a person who is ill, injured, infirm, or experiencing a change in
24 normal health processes;

25 (B) the maintenance of health or prevention of
26 illness;

27 (C) the administration of a medication or

1 treatment as ordered by a health care practitioner legally
2 authorized to prescribe the medication or treatment [~~physician,~~
3 ~~podiatrist, or dentist~~];

4 (D) the supervision or teaching of nursing;

5 (E) the administration, supervision, and
6 evaluation of nursing practices, policies, and procedures;

7 (F) the requesting, receiving, signing for, and
8 distribution of prescription drug samples to patients at practices
9 at which an advanced practice registered nurse is authorized to
10 sign prescription drug orders as provided by Subchapter B, Chapter
11 157, or Section 301.357;

12 (G) the performance of an act delegated by a
13 physician under Section 157.0512, 157.054, 157.058, or 157.059;
14 [~~and~~]

15 (H) the development of the nursing care plan; and

16 (I) the performance of an act by an advanced
17 practice registered nurse in accordance with Section 301.357.

18 (6) "Controlled substance" has the meaning assigned by
19 Section 481.002, Health and Safety Code.

20 (7) "Dangerous drug" has the meaning assigned by
21 Section 483.001, Health and Safety Code.

22 (8) "Device" has the meaning assigned by Section
23 551.003, and includes durable medical equipment.

24 (9) "Nonprescription drug" has the meaning assigned by
25 Section 551.003.

26 (10) "Prescribe or order a drug or device" has the
27 meaning assigned by Section 157.051.

SECTION 1.003. Section 301.152(b), Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) The board shall adopt rules to:

(1) license a registered nurse as an advanced practice registered nurse;

(2) establish:

(A) any specialized education or training, including pharmacology, that an advanced practice registered nurse must have to prescribe or order a drug or device as delegated by a physician under Section 157.0512 or 157.054 or as authorized by the board under Section 301.357;

(B) a system for approving an advanced practice registered nurse to prescribe or order a drug or device as delegated by a physician under Section 157.0512 or 157.054 or as authorized by the board under Section 301.357 on the receipt of evidence of completing the specialized education and training requirement under Paragraph (A); and

(C) a system for issuing a prescription authorization number to an advanced practice registered nurse approved under Paragraph (B); and

(3) concurrently renew any license or approval granted to an advanced practice registered nurse under this subsection and a license renewed by the advanced practice registered nurse under Section 301.301.

SECTION 1.004. Subchapter H, Chapter 301, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Section 301.357 to read as follows:

Sec. 301.357. PRACTICE OF CERTAIN ADVANCED PRACTICE

REGISTERED NURSES IN CERTAIN RURAL COUNTIES. (a) The board shall authorize the practice under this section of an advanced practice registered nurse who:

(1) practices in a county:

(A) identified under Section 487.851(a)(1), Government Code; and

(B) the county judge of which has submitted a request under Section 486.852, Government Code;

(2) has been issued a prescription authorization number as provided by Section 301.152(b); and

(3) applies for authorization under this section in the manner prescribed by the board.

(b) The scope of practice of an advanced practice registered nurse authorized to practice under this section includes:

(1) ordering, performing, and interpreting diagnostic tests;

(2) formulating primary and differential medical diagnoses and advanced assessments;

(3) treating actual and potential health problems;

(4) prescribing therapeutic and corrective measures, including nutrition and diagnostic support services, home health care, hospice care, physical therapy, and occupational therapy, and delegating and assigning the performance of therapeutic and corrective measures to assistive personnel;

(5) subject to Subsection (c), prescribing and ordering drugs and devices, including controlled substances listed in Schedules II, III, IV, and V, dangerous drugs, and

1 nonprescription drugs;

2 (6) providing referrals to health care agencies,
3 health care providers, and community resources;

4 (7) serving as the primary care provider of record;
5 and

6 (8) performing other acts that require education and
7 training consistent with professional standards and that are
8 commensurate with the advanced practice registered nurse's
9 education, licensure, and demonstrated competencies and
10 experience.

11 (c) An advanced practice registered nurse authorized to
12 practice under this section may prescribe and order controlled
13 substances listed in Schedule II only:

14 (1) in a hospital facility-based practice in
15 accordance with policies approved by the hospital's medical staff
16 or a committee of the hospital's medical staff as provided by the
17 hospital bylaws to ensure patient safety, and as part of the care
18 provided to a patient who:

19 (A) has been admitted to the hospital and is
20 expected to remain in the hospital for a period of 24 hours or more;
21 or

22 (B) is receiving services in the emergency
23 department of the hospital; or

24 (2) as part of the plan of care for the treatment of a
25 person who has executed a written certification of a terminal
26 illness, has elected to receive hospice care, and is receiving
27 hospice treatment from a qualified hospice provider.

1 (d) The board by rule:

2 (1) shall prescribe the application process for
3 authorization to practice under this section;

4 (2) shall establish criteria to determine the county
5 in which an advanced practice registered nurse practices for
6 purposes of Subsection (a)(1); and

7 (3) may set a fee for an application for authorization
8 under this section in a reasonable amount that is sufficient to
9 cover the costs of administering this section.

10 (e) An authorization under this section remains in effect as
11 long as the advanced practice registered nurse practices in a
12 county described by Subsection (a)(1).

13 ARTICLE 2. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS

14 SECTION 2.001. Section 38.151(1), Education Code, is
15 amended to read as follows:

16 (1) "Advanced practice nurse" has the meaning assigned
17 to "advanced practice registered nurse" by Section 301.152,
18 Occupations Code.

19 SECTION 2.002. Section 671.001(b), Government Code, is
20 amended to read as follows:

21 (b) The pilot program must provide for the following:

22 (1) a licensed advanced practice registered nurse as
23 defined by Section 301.152, Occupations Code, or a licensed
24 physician assistant as described by Chapter 204, Occupations Code,
25 who is employed by the state or whose services are acquired by
26 contract, who will be located at a state office complex;

27 (2) if applicable, a licensed physician, who is

1 employed by a state governmental entity for purposes other than the
2 pilot program or whose services are acquired by contract, who will
3 delegate to and supervise the advanced practice registered nurse or
4 physician assistant under a prescriptive authority agreement under
5 Chapter 157, Occupations Code;

6 (3) appropriate office space and equipment for the
7 advanced practice registered nurse or physician assistant to
8 provide basic medical care to employees at the state office complex
9 where the nurse or physician assistant is located; and

10 (4) professional liability insurance covering
11 services provided by the advanced practice registered nurse or the
12 physician assistant.

13 SECTION 2.003. Section 481.002(39), Health and Safety Code,
14 is amended to read as follows:

15 (39) "Practitioner" means:

16 (A) a physician, dentist, veterinarian,
17 podiatrist, scientific investigator, advanced practice registered
18 nurse, or other person licensed, registered, or otherwise permitted
19 to distribute, dispense, analyze, conduct research with respect to,
20 or administer a controlled substance in the course of professional
21 practice or research in this state;

22 (B) a pharmacy, hospital, or other institution
23 licensed, registered, or otherwise permitted to distribute,
24 dispense, conduct research with respect to, or administer a
25 controlled substance in the course of professional practice or
26 research in this state;

27 (C) a person practicing in and licensed by

1 another state as a physician, dentist, veterinarian, advanced
2 practice registered nurse, or podiatrist, having a current Federal
3 Drug Enforcement Administration registration number, who may
4 legally prescribe Schedule II, III, IV, or V controlled substances
5 in that state; or

6 (D) an advanced practice registered nurse or
7 physician assistant to whom a physician has delegated the authority
8 to prescribe or order a drug or device under Section 157.0511,
9 157.0512, or 157.054, Occupations Code.

10 SECTION 2.004. Section 481.073(a), Health and Safety Code,
11 is amended to read as follows:

12 (a) Only a practitioner defined by Section 481.002(39)(A)
13 and an agent designated in writing by the practitioner in
14 accordance with rules adopted by the board may communicate a
15 prescription by telephone. A pharmacy that receives a
16 telephonically communicated prescription shall promptly write the
17 prescription and file and retain the prescription in the manner
18 required by this subchapter. A practitioner who designates an
19 agent to communicate prescriptions shall maintain the written
20 designation of the agent in the practitioner's usual place of
21 business and shall make the designation available for inspection by
22 investigators for the Texas Medical Board, the State Board of
23 Dental Examiners, the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners,
24 the Texas Board of Nursing, the board, and the department. A
25 practitioner who designates a different agent shall designate that
26 agent in writing and maintain the designation in the same manner in
27 which the practitioner initially designated an agent under this

1 section.

2 SECTION 2.005. Section 481.074(d), Health and Safety Code,
3 is amended to read as follows:

4 (d) Except as specified in Subsections (e) and (f), the
5 board, by rule and in consultation with the Texas Medical Board and
6 the Texas Board of Nursing, shall establish the period after the
7 date on which the prescription is issued that a person may fill a
8 prescription for a controlled substance listed in Schedule II. A
9 person may not refill a prescription for a substance listed in
10 Schedule II.

11 SECTION 2.006. Section 481.076(c), Health and Safety Code,
12 is amended to read as follows:

13 (c) The board by rule shall design and implement a system
14 for submission of information to the board by electronic or other
15 means and for retrieval of information submitted to the board under
16 this section and Sections 481.074 and 481.075. The board shall use
17 automated information security techniques and devices to preclude
18 improper access to the information. The board shall submit the
19 system design to the director, ~~and~~ the Texas Medical Board, and
20 the Texas Board of Nursing for review and comment a reasonable time
21 before implementation of the system and shall comply with the
22 comments of those agencies unless it is unreasonable to do so.

23 SECTION 2.007. Sections 483.001(4) and (12), Health and
24 Safety Code, are amended to read as follows:

25 (4) "Designated agent" means:

26 (A) a licensed nurse, physician assistant,
27 pharmacist, or other individual designated by a practitioner to

1 communicate prescription drug orders to a pharmacist;

2 (B) a licensed nurse, physician assistant, or
3 pharmacist employed in a health care facility to whom the
4 practitioner communicates a prescription drug order; or

5 (C) an advanced practice [a] registered nurse or
6 physician assistant authorized by a practitioner to carry out a
7 prescription drug order for dangerous drugs under Subchapter B,
8 Chapter 157, Occupations Code, or an advanced practice registered
9 nurse authorized to practice under Section 301.357, Occupations
10 Code.

11 (12) "Practitioner" means:

12 (A) a person licensed by:

13 (i) the Texas Medical Board, State Board of
14 Dental Examiners, [~~Texas State Board of Podiatric Medical~~
15 ~~Examiners,~~] Texas Optometry Board, Texas Board of Nursing, or State
16 Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners to prescribe and administer
17 dangerous drugs; or

18 (ii) the Texas Department of Licensing and
19 Regulation, with respect to podiatry, to prescribe and administer
20 dangerous drugs;

21 (B) a person licensed by another state in a
22 health field in which, under the laws of this state, a licensee may
23 legally prescribe dangerous drugs;

24 (C) a person licensed in Canada or Mexico in a
25 health field in which, under the laws of this state, a licensee may
26 legally prescribe dangerous drugs; or

27 (D) an advanced practice registered nurse or

1 physician assistant to whom a physician has delegated the authority
2 to prescribe or order a drug or device under Section 157.0511,
3 157.0512, or 157.054, Occupations Code.

4 SECTION 2.008. Section 32.03141, Human Resources Code, is
5 amended to read as follows:

6 Sec. 32.03141. AUTHORITY OF ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED
7 NURSES AND PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS REGARDING DURABLE MEDICAL
8 EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES. To the extent allowed by federal law, in
9 addition to other health care practitioners authorized by federal
10 law, the following persons may order and prescribe durable medical
11 equipment and supplies under the medical assistance program:

12 (1) an advanced practice registered nurse authorized
13 to practice under Section 301.357, Occupations Code; and

14 (2) an advanced practice registered nurse or physician
15 assistant acting under adequate physician supervision and to whom a
16 physician has delegated the authority to prescribe and order drugs
17 and devices under Chapter 157, Occupations Code~~[, may order and~~
18 ~~prescribe durable medical equipment and supplies under the medical~~
19 ~~assistance program]~~.

20 SECTION 2.009. Section 843.312, Insurance Code, is amended
21 to read as follows:

22 Sec. 843.312. PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS AND ADVANCED PRACTICE
23 REGISTERED NURSES. (a) A health maintenance organization may not
24 refuse a request by a physician participating in the health
25 maintenance organization delivery network and a physician
26 assistant or advanced practice registered nurse who is authorized
27 by the physician to provide care under Subchapter B, Chapter 157,

1 Occupations Code, or an advanced practice registered nurse who is
2 authorized to practice under Section 301.357, Occupations Code, to
3 identify a physician assistant or advanced practice registered
4 nurse as a provider in the network.

5 (b) A health maintenance organization may refuse a request
6 under Subsection (a) if the physician assistant or advanced
7 practice registered nurse does not meet the quality of care
8 standards previously established by the health maintenance
9 organization for participation in the network by physician
10 assistants and advanced practice registered nurses.

11 SECTION 2.010. Section 1301.001(1-a), Insurance Code, is
12 amended to read as follows:

13 (1-a) "Health care provider" means a practitioner,
14 institutional provider, or other person or organization that
15 furnishes health care services and that is licensed or otherwise
16 authorized to practice in this state. The term includes a
17 pharmacist, ~~and~~ a pharmacy, and an advanced practice registered
18 nurse. The term does not include a physician.

19 SECTION 2.011. Section 1301.052, Insurance Code, is amended
20 to read as follows:

21 Sec. 1301.052. DESIGNATION OF ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED
22 NURSE OR PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT AS PREFERRED PROVIDER. An insurer
23 offering a preferred provider benefit plan may not refuse a request
24 made by a physician participating as a preferred provider under the
25 plan and an advanced practice registered nurse or physician
26 assistant to have the advanced practice registered nurse or
27 physician assistant included as a preferred provider under the plan

1 if:

2 (1) the advanced practice registered nurse or
3 physician assistant is authorized by the physician to provide care
4 under Subchapter B, Chapter 157, Occupations Code, or the advanced
5 practice registered nurse is authorized to practice under Section
6 301.357, Occupations Code; and

7 (2) the advanced practice registered nurse or
8 physician assistant meets the quality of care standards previously
9 established by the insurer for participation in the plan by
10 advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants.

11 SECTION 2.012. Section 1451.001(2), Insurance Code, is
12 amended to read as follows:

13 (2) "Advanced practice registered nurse" means an
14 individual licensed by the Texas Board of Nursing as a registered
15 nurse and licensed [~~recognized~~] by that board as an advanced
16 practice registered nurse.

17 SECTION 2.013. Section 1451.104(c), Insurance Code, is
18 amended to read as follows:

19 (c) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), a health insurance
20 policy may provide for a different amount of payment or
21 reimbursement for scheduled services or procedures performed by an
22 advanced practice registered nurse, nurse first assistant,
23 licensed surgical assistant, or physician assistant if the
24 methodology used to compute the amount is the same as the
25 methodology used to compute the amount of payment or reimbursement
26 when the services or procedures are provided by a physician.

27 SECTION 2.014. Section 1451.106, Insurance Code, is amended

1 to read as follows:

2 Sec. 1451.106. SELECTION OF ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED
3 NURSE. An insured may select an advanced practice registered nurse
4 to provide the services scheduled in the health insurance policy
5 that are within the scope of the nurse's license.

6 SECTION 2.015. Section 1452.051(1), Insurance Code, is
7 amended to read as follows:

8 (1) "Advanced practice nurse" has the meaning assigned
9 to "advanced practice registered nurse" by Section 301.152,
10 Occupations Code.

11 SECTION 2.016. Sections 551.003(14) and (34), Occupations
12 Code, are amended to read as follows:

13 (14) "Designated agent" means:

14 (A) an individual, including a licensed nurse,
15 physician assistant, or pharmacist:

16 (i) who is designated by a practitioner and
17 authorized to communicate a prescription drug order to a
18 pharmacist; and

19 (ii) for whom the practitioner assumes
20 legal responsibility;

21 (B) a licensed nurse, physician assistant, or
22 pharmacist employed in a health care facility to whom a
23 practitioner communicates a prescription drug order; or

24 (C) a registered nurse or physician assistant
25 authorized by a practitioner to administer a prescription drug
26 order for a dangerous drug under Subchapter B, Chapter 157, or an
27 advanced practice registered nurse authorized to practice under

1 Section 301.357.

2 (34) "Practitioner" means:

3 (A) a person licensed or registered to prescribe,
4 distribute, administer, or dispense a prescription drug or device
5 in the course of professional practice in this state, including a
6 physician, dentist, podiatrist, advanced practice registered
7 nurse, or veterinarian but excluding a person licensed under this
8 subtitle;

9 (B) a person licensed by another state, Canada,
10 or the United Mexican States in a health field in which, under the
11 law of this state, a license holder in this state may legally
12 prescribe a dangerous drug;

13 (C) a person practicing in another state and
14 licensed by another state as a physician, dentist, veterinarian,
15 advanced practice registered nurse, or podiatrist, who has a
16 current federal Drug Enforcement Administration registration
17 number and who may legally prescribe a Schedule II, III, IV, or V
18 controlled substance, as specified under Chapter [481](#), Health and
19 Safety Code, in that other state; or

20 (D) an advanced practice registered nurse or
21 physician assistant to whom a physician has delegated the authority
22 to prescribe or order a drug or device under Section [157.0511](#),
23 [157.0512](#), or [157.054](#).

24 SECTION 2.017. Section [563.053](#), Occupations Code, is
25 amended to read as follows:

26 Sec. 563.053. DISPENSING OF DANGEROUS DRUGS IN CERTAIN
27 RURAL AREAS. (a) In this section, "reimbursement for cost" means

1 an additional charge, separate from that imposed for the
2 physician's or advanced practice registered nurse's professional
3 services, that includes the cost of the drug product and all other
4 actual costs to the physician or advanced practice registered nurse
5 incidental to providing the dispensing service. The term does not
6 include a separate fee imposed for the act of dispensing the drug
7 itself.

8 (b) This section applies to an area located in a county with
9 a population of 5,000 or less, or in a municipality or an
10 unincorporated town with a population of less than 2,500, that is
11 within a 15-mile radius of the physician's or advanced practice
12 registered nurse's office and in which a pharmacy is not located.
13 This section does not apply to a municipality or an unincorporated
14 town that is adjacent to a municipality with a population of 2,500
15 or more.

16 (c) A physician who practices medicine or an advanced
17 practice registered nurse who is authorized to practice under
18 Section 301.357 and who practices advanced practice registered
19 nursing in an area described by Subsection (b) may:

20 (1) maintain a supply of dangerous drugs in the
21 physician's or advanced practice registered nurse's office to be
22 dispensed in the course of treating the physician's or advanced
23 practice registered nurse's patients; and

24 (2) be reimbursed for the cost of supplying those
25 drugs without obtaining a license under Chapter 558.

26 (d) A physician or advanced practice registered nurse who
27 dispenses dangerous drugs under Subsection (c) shall:

1 (1) comply with each labeling provision under this
2 subtitle applicable to that class of drugs; and

3 (2) oversee compliance with packaging and
4 recordkeeping provisions applicable to that class of drugs.

5 (e) A physician who desires to dispense dangerous drugs
6 under this section shall notify both the board and the Texas Medical
7 ~~[State]~~ Board ~~[of Medical Examiners]~~ that the physician practices
8 in an area described by Subsection (b). An advanced practice
9 registered nurse who desires to dispense dangerous drugs under this
10 section shall notify both the board and the Texas Board of Nursing
11 that the advanced practice registered nurse practices in an area
12 described by Subsection (b). The physician or advanced practice
13 registered nurse may continue to dispense dangerous drugs in the
14 area until the board determines, after notice and hearing, that the
15 physician or advanced practice registered nurse no longer practices
16 in an area described by Subsection (b).

17 SECTION 2.018. Section 605.002(14), Occupations Code, is
18 amended to read as follows:

19 (14) "Orthotics" means the science and practice of
20 measuring, designing, fabricating, assembling, fitting, adjusting,
21 or servicing an orthosis under an order from a licensed physician,
22 chiropractor, ~~[or]~~ podiatrist, or ~~[an]~~ advanced practice
23 registered nurse, or from an advanced practice registered nurse or
24 physician assistant acting under the delegation and supervision of
25 a licensed physician as provided by Subchapter B, Chapter 157, and
26 rules adopted by the Texas Medical Board, for the correction or
27 alleviation of a neuromuscular or musculoskeletal dysfunction,

disease, injury, or deformity.

SECTION 2.019. Section 605.2515, Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 605.2515. ADDITIONAL LICENSE: DEVICE MANUFACTURER. A person licensed to practice orthotics or prosthetics who measures, designs, fabricates, fits, assembles, adjusts, or services an orthosis or a prosthesis under an order from a licensed physician, chiropractor, ~~or~~ podiatrist, or ~~an~~ advanced practice registered nurse, or from an advanced practice registered nurse or physician assistant acting under the delegation and supervision of a licensed physician as provided by Subchapter B, Chapter 157, and rules adopted by the Texas Medical Board, for a specific patient is exempt from licensing as a device manufacturer under Subchapter L, Chapter 431, Health and Safety Code. A person licensed to practice orthotics or prosthetics who fabricates or assembles an orthosis or a prosthesis without an order from a licensed physician, chiropractor, ~~or~~ podiatrist, or ~~an~~ advanced practice registered nurse, or from an advanced practice registered nurse or physician assistant acting under the delegation and supervision of a licensed physician as provided by Subchapter B, Chapter 157, and rules adopted by the Texas Medical Board, for a specific patient is required to be licensed as a device manufacturer under Subchapter L, Chapter 431, Health and Safety Code.

ARTICLE 3. TRANSITION; CONFLICT WITH OTHER LEGISLATION; EFFECTIVE DATE

SECTION 3.001. (a) Notwithstanding the deadline provided by Section 487.851, Government Code, as added by this Act, the

1 Office of Rural Affairs established in the Department of
2 Agriculture shall produce the initial list required under that
3 section not later than December 1, 2019. Notwithstanding the
4 deadline provided by Section 487.852, Government Code, as added by
5 this Act, a county judge may submit an initial request as provided
6 by that section not later than February 1, 2020.

7 (b) Not later than February 1, 2020, the Texas Board of
8 Nursing shall adopt the rules necessary to implement the changes in
9 law made by this Act.

10 SECTION 3.002. To the extent of any conflict, this Act
11 prevails over another Act of the 86th Legislature, Regular Session,
12 2019, relating to nonsubstantive additions to and corrections in
13 enacted codes.

14 SECTION 3.003. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.