

By: Frank

H.B. No. 548

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the licensing of certain military veterans as health care providers to practice in underserved areas.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 155, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Section 155.108 to read as follows:

Sec. 155.108. LICENSE FOR MILITARY VETERAN TO PRACTICE IN CERTAIN AREAS. (a) In this section, "active duty" and "armed forces of the United States" have the meanings assigned by Section 55.001.

(b) The board shall issue a license to practice medicine in a location described by Subsection (e) to an applicant who:

(1) is licensed in good standing as a physician in another state;

(2) is a veteran of the armed forces of the United States who retired from or otherwise left military service not more than one year before the application date for a license under this section; and

(3) was, at the time of retiring from or leaving military service:

(A) serving on active duty in this state; and

(B) authorized as a physician to treat persons enlisted in the armed forces of the United States or veterans.

(c) An applicant for a license under this section is not

1 required to have passed the Texas medical jurisprudence  
2 examination.

3 (d) The board may not issue a license under this section to  
4 an applicant who:

5 (1) holds a medical license or a license to prescribe,  
6 dispense, administer, supply, or sell a controlled substance that:

7 (A) is currently under active investigation; or

8 (B) is or was subject to a disciplinary order or  
9 action or to denial by another jurisdiction; or

10 (2) has been convicted of, is on deferred adjudication  
11 community supervision or deferred disposition for, or is under  
12 active investigation for the commission of:

13 (A) a felony; or

14 (B) a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude.

15 (e) A physician licensed under this section may practice  
16 only in:

17 (1) a health professional shortage area, as defined by  
18 Section 157.051; or

19 (2) a medically underserved community, as defined by  
20 Section 487.201, Government Code.

21 SECTION 2. Subchapter F, Chapter 301, Occupations Code, is  
22 amended by adding Section 301.262 to read as follows:

23 Sec. 301.262. LICENSE FOR MILITARY VETERAN TO PRACTICE IN  
24 CERTAIN AREAS. (a) In this section, "active duty" and "armed  
25 forces of the United States" have the meanings assigned by Section  
26 55.001.

27 (b) The board shall issue a license to practice nursing in a

1 location described by Subsection (e) to an applicant who:

2 (1) is licensed in good standing as a nurse in another  
3 state;

4 (2) is a veteran of the armed forces of the United  
5 States who retired from or otherwise left military service not more  
6 than one year before the application date for a license under this  
7 section; and

8 (3) was, at the time of retiring from or otherwise  
9 leaving military service:

10 (A) serving on active duty in this state; and

11 (B) authorized as a nurse to treat persons  
12 enlisted in the armed forces of the United States or veterans.

13 (c) An applicant for a license under this section is not  
14 required to have passed the jurisprudence examination.

15 (d) The board may not issue a license under this section to  
16 an applicant who:

17 (1) holds a nursing license or a license to prescribe,  
18 dispense, administer, supply, or sell a controlled substance that:

19 (A) is currently under active investigation; or

20 (B) is or was subject to a disciplinary order or  
21 action or to denial by another jurisdiction; or

22 (2) has been convicted of, is on deferred adjudication  
23 community supervision or deferred disposition for, or is under  
24 active investigation for the commission of:

25 (A) a felony; or

26 (B) a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude.

27 (e) A nurse licensed under this section may practice only

1 in:

2                   (1) a health professional shortage area, as defined by  
3 Section 157.051; or

4                   (2) a medically underserved community, as defined by  
5 Section 487.201, Government Code.

6           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.