

By: Frank

H.B. No. 1340

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) was discharged or separated from the armed forces  
6 of the United States:

7 (A) on the basis of substandard conduct; or

8 (B) for any act of misconduct or moral or  
9 professional dereliction;

10 (2) holds a medical license or a license to prescribe,  
11 dispense, administer, supply, or sell a controlled substance that:

12 (A) is currently under active investigation; or

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

15 (3) has been convicted of, is on deferred adjudication  
16 community supervision or deferred disposition for, or is under  
17 active investigation for the commission of:

18 (A) a felony; or

19 (B) a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude.

20 (e) A physician licensed under this section may practice  
21 only in:

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

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

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

1       Sec. 301.262. LICENSE FOR MILITARY VETERAN TO PRACTICE IN  
2 CERTAIN AREAS. (a) In this section, "active duty" and "armed  
3 forces of the United States" have the meanings assigned by Section  
4 55.001.

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

7           (1) is licensed in good standing as a nurse in another  
8 state;

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

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

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

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

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

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

22           (1) was discharged or separated from the armed forces  
23 of the United States:

24                   (A) on the basis of substandard conduct; or

25                   (B) for any act of misconduct or moral or  
26 professional dereliction;

27           (2) holds a nursing license or a license to prescribe,

1 dispense, administer, supply, or sell a controlled substance that:

2 (A) is currently under active investigation; or

3 (B) is or was subject to a disciplinary order or

4 action or to denial by another jurisdiction; or

5 (3) has been convicted of, is on deferred adjudication

6 community supervision or deferred disposition for, or is under

7 active investigation for the commission of:

8 (A) a felony; or

9 (B) a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude.

10 (e) A nurse licensed under this section may practice only  
11 in:

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

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

16 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.