

By: Howard

H.B. No. 2188

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 2188:

By: VanDeaver

C.S.H.B. No. 2188

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the transition of the nurse aide certification program from the Health and Human Services Commission to the Texas Board of Nursing and to the creation of a workgroup on nursing career pathways and a panel on nursing program standards.

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

SECTION 1. NURSE AIDE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM. (a) The Texas Board of Nursing and the Health and Human Services Commission shall jointly develop an operational plan for transitioning the nurse aide certification program from the Health and Human Services Commission to the Texas Board of Nursing. The study must include all financial, operational, and other relevant considerations necessary for the transition.

(b) Not later than December 1, 2026, the Texas Board of Nursing and the Health and Human Services Commission shall submit the plan developed under this section to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and each standing committee of the legislature with primary jurisdiction over nursing.

SECTION 2. NURSING CAREER PATHWAYS. (a) The Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies shall establish and oversee a workgroup to assess the feasibility of better aligning the certification and career pathways of nurse aides, medication aides, and personal care technicians into the nursing profession.

(b) The workgroup must include:

(1) the executive head of each of the following entities, or that person's designated representative:

(A) the Texas Board of Nursing;

(B) the Health and Human Services Commission;

(C) the Texas Workforce Commission;

(D) the Texas Education Agency; and

(E) the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board; and

(2) relevant academic or health care professionals.

(c) In conducting the assessment under this section, the workgroup shall consider and evaluate:

(1) the standards, regulations, and laws currently impacting the nursing profession;

(2) the feasibility of alignment in certification requirements for nurse aides, medication aides, and personal care technicians to minimize duplicative efforts in the educational pathways in nursing; and

(3) the present and future impact of new business practices and advancing technologies in health care.

(d) Not later than December 1, 2026, the workgroup established under this section shall submit a report summarizing the results of the assessment conducted under this section to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and each standing committee of the legislature with primary jurisdiction over nursing.

SECTION 3. GOLD RIBBON PANEL ON THE FUTURE OF NURSING. (a)

1 In this section, "board" means the Texas Board of Nursing.

2 (b) The board, in consultation with the Texas Center for
3 Nursing Workforce Studies, shall oversee a gold ribbon panel to
4 review and examine the current nursing program standards and
5 educational and other accreditation requirements to identify any
6 changes needed to prepare for the future of the nursing profession.
7 The panel consists of not more than 13 members appointed by the
8 governor as follows:

9 (1) one member who is a registered nurse;
10 (2) one member who is a licensed vocational nurse;
11 (3) one member who is an advanced practice registered
12 nurse;

13 (4) three members representing nursing education
14 programs, with at least one representing each of the following:

15 (A) an associate degree program;
16 (B) a baccalaureate degree program; and
17 (C) a nursing program provided by a private
18 institution of higher education;

19 (5) three members representing hospitals, including
20 representation of at least three of the following:

21 (A) a hospital in a rural community;
22 (B) a hospital in an urban community;
23 (C) a trauma hospital;
24 (D) a teaching hospital; and
25 (E) a children's hospital; and

26 (6) not more than four members with relevant
27 experience representing alternative practice settings such as a

1 nursing home, a community health clinic, or at-home health.

2 (c) Not later than the 60th day after the date the panel is
3 appointed, the board shall publish on the board's Internet website
4 and in the Texas Register a request for written comments regarding
5 nursing program standards and educational and other accreditation
6 requirements from stakeholders in nursing programs and the nursing
7 profession. The board shall forward relevant comments to the
8 panel.

9 (d) The board shall assist the panel in conducting at least
10 three public hearings in accessible locations to obtain oral and
11 written comments regarding nursing program standards and
12 educational and other accreditation requirements. The board shall
13 provide notice of the hearings in the manner provided by Chapter
14 [551](#), Government Code, and on the board's Internet website.

15 (e) The panel is a governmental body for purposes of
16 Chapters [551](#) and [552](#), Government Code.

17 (f) In conducting the review under this section, the panel
18 shall evaluate and consider:

19 (1) innovative nursing industry programs across the
20 United States, in the military, and in other countries;

21 (2) published literature regarding effective methods
22 for educating and regulating nurses that result in measurable
23 improved outcomes; and

24 (3) the effect on the practice of nursing of changes
25 in:

26 (A) technology that impacts the nursing
27 profession;

1 (B) the role of nurses in health practice; and

2 (C) nursing education, including the teaching of
3 soft skills and patient interaction.

4 (g) The board and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating
5 Board shall provide administrative support to the panel.

6 (h) Not later than December 1, 2026, the panel shall submit
7 a report summarizing the results of the review under this section
8 and including the panel's recommendations to the governor, the
9 lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives,
10 and each standing committee of the legislature with primary
11 jurisdiction over nursing.

12 SECTION 4. EXPIRATION. This Act expires January 1, 2027.

13 SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September
14 1, 2025.