

By: Hancock

S.B. No. 1815

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 the creation of a workgroup on nursing career pathways.

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. EXPIRATION. This Act expires January 1, 2027.

SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September

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1 1, 2025.