

By: Kolkhorst

S.B. No. 2054

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the authorization for and approval of certain nursing
3 programs offered by private postsecondary educational institutions
4 or for-profit entities.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 61.302, Education Code, is amended by
7 adding Subdivisions (12) and (13) to read as follows:

8 (12) "Professional degree" includes a Doctor of
9 Medicine (M.D.), Doctor of Osteopathy (D.O.), Doctor of Dental
10 Surgery (D.D.S.), Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M.), Juris
11 Doctor (J.D.), and Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.).

12 (13) "Nursing program" means a program preparing a
13 student for licensure as a licensed vocational nurse or a program
14 leading to an Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN), a Bachelor of
15 Science in Nursing (BSN), a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN), or a
16 Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP).

17 SECTION 2. Section 61.303, Education Code, is amended by
18 amending Subsection (c-1) and adding Subsection (c-2) to read as
19 follows:

20 (c-1) The board may not approve the issuance of a
21 certificate of authorization for an exempt institution to grant a
22 professional degree or to represent that credits earned in this
23 state are applicable toward a professional degree except to the
24 extent allowed for an authorized institution operating under a

1 State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA). [~~In this~~
2 ~~subsection, "professional degree" includes Doctor of Medicine~~
3 ~~(M.D.), Doctor of Osteopathy (D.O.), Doctor of Dental Surgery~~
4 ~~(D.D.S.), Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M.), Juris Doctor~~
5 ~~(J.D.), and Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.).]~~

6 (c-2) The board may not approve the issuance of a
7 certificate of authorization for an exempt institution to offer a
8 nursing program or grant a nursing degree or to represent that
9 credits earned in a nursing program in this state are applicable
10 toward a nursing degree except to the extent:

11 (1) allowed for an authorized institution operating
12 under a State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA); or

13 (2) determined necessary by the board.

14 SECTION 3. Section 61.306(c-1), Education Code, is amended
15 to read as follows:

16 (c-1) The board may issue a certificate of authority for a
17 private postsecondary educational institution to grant a
18 professional degree, to offer a nursing program or grant a nursing
19 degree, or to represent that credits earned in this state are
20 applicable toward a professional or nursing degree only if the
21 board determines that:

22 (1) the capacity and ability of similar [~~professional~~
23 ~~degree~~] programs at institutions of higher education and private or
24 independent institutions of higher education are insufficient to
25 meet the state's current market needs;

26 (2) the institution seeking the certificate of
27 authority:

1 (A) has the necessary faculty and other resources
2 to ensure student success; and

3 (B) is subject to and agrees to meet the same
4 standards for approval and all academic criteria applicable to
5 similar [~~professional degree~~] programs offered by institutions of
6 higher education and private or independent institutions of higher
7 education; and

8 (3) sufficient placements are available to students
9 for required field-based experience, such as clinicals or
10 clerkships, for the proposed program or [~~professional~~] degree.

11 SECTION 4. Section [61.306\(d\)](#), Education Code, is repealed.

12 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.