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A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

# 1 AN ACT

2 relating to the establishment of the Health Professions Workforce  
3 Coordinating Council and the abolition of the statewide health  
4 coordinating council and the nursing advisory committee of that  
5 council.

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

7 SECTION 1. Subtitle E, Title 2, Health and Safety Code, is  
8 amended by adding Chapter 104A to read as follows:

## CHAPTER 104A. HEALTH PROFESSIONS WORKFORCE COORDINATING COUNCIL

10 Sec. 104A.001. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "council"  
11 means the Health Professions Workforce Coordinating Council.

Sec. 104A.002. ESTABLISHMENT; ADMINISTRATIVE ATTACHMENT.

13 (a) The Health Professions Workforce Coordinating Council is  
14 established to study and develop a strategic approach for ensuring  
15 a thriving health care system and health professions workforce in  
16 this state.

17 (b) The council is administratively attached to the  
18 department. The department shall provide administrative support to  
19 the council.

20 Sec. 104A.003. MEMBERSHIP. (a) The council is composed of:

23 (A) the department;

24 (B) the commission;

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1 representative appointed to the council under Section  
2 104A.003(a)(1) information regarding the health professions  
3 workforce, including:

6 (B) higher education graduation and  
7 certification rates from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating  
8 Board;

9 (C) health professions workforce shortages;

10 (D) the number of licensed health care  
11 professionals regulated by each participating licensing state  
12 agency;

13 (E) federal labor statistics regarding health  
14 professions; and

15 (F) any other information relevant to the supply  
16 and demand of health care professionals;

19 (3) establish the work group described by Section  
20 104A.006.

21 Sec. 104A.005. STRATEGIC PLAN. (a) The council shall  
22 examine the health professions in this state based on the  
23 information compiled under Section 104A.004(1) and biennially  
24 prepare a health professions strategic plan. The plan must:

1                   (2) define targeted goals and objectives for the  
2 health professions workforce, including short-term and long-term  
3 strategies for each state agency participating in the council and  
4 local workforce planning agencies to build a thriving health care  
5 system;

6                   (3) identify immediate shortages in health  
7 professions;

8                   (4) define goals for this state to support the health  
9 care needs of a growing population;

10                   (5) examine this state's capacity to satisfy future  
11 health profession demands based on the existing education programs  
12 offered and current trends of interstate migration, attrition, and  
13 other relevant workforce factors;

14                   (6) propose recommendations to realign existing  
15 workforce and education programs;

16                   (7) propose the development of additional education  
17 programs for health professions that align with the long-term goals  
18 and projections identified in the plan;

19                   (8) identify systemic causes of workforce shortages  
20 for health professions; and

21                   (9) inventory programs and services, including state  
22 funding amounts provided for workforce planning and preparation and  
23 for health professional education.

24                   (b) Not later than October 1 of each even-numbered year, the  
25 council shall complete and publish on the council's Internet  
26 website the strategic plan described by Subsection (a).

27                   Sec. 104A.006. WORK GROUP. (a) The council shall establish

1 a work group to examine the health professions and health care  
2 education programs that provide a gateway into a variety of health  
3 professions. The work group consists of members of the council or  
4 their designees.

5       **(b) The work group shall:**

6           **(1) identify sources for gathering information on**  
7 gateway health professions; and  
8           **(2) build a data analysis model to monitor the**  
9 historical growth of gateway health professions.

10       Sec. 104A.007. NURSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE. (a) The  
11 council shall establish a nursing advisory committee to assist the  
12 council with its duties. A majority of the members of the advisory  
13 committee must be nurses, and the advisory committee:

14       **(1) must include:**

15           **(A) members of associations representing nurses,**  
16 educators of nurses, and employers of nurses;

17           **(B) members representing the Texas Board of**  
18 Nursing; and

19           **(C) at least one member who is a nurse**  
20 researcher; and

21           **(2) may include other members who are public or**  
22 private sector health care experts, nurses, nurse educators,  
23 employers of nurses, or consumers of nursing services.

24       **(b) The nursing advisory committee shall:**

25           **(1) review policies governing data collection and**  
26 reports published under Chapter 105 that relate to the nursing  
27 profession;

1                   (2) subject to approval of the council, develop  
2 priorities and an operations plan for the nursing resource section  
3 established under Section 105.002(b); and  
4                   (3) review reports and information before  
5 dissemination by the council.

6                   (c) A nurse member of the nursing advisory committee and a  
7 nurse member of the council shall co-chair the committee.

8                   (d) Chapter 2110, Government Code, does not apply to the  
9 nursing advisory committee formed under this section.

10                  (e) Meetings of the nursing advisory committee under this  
11 section are subject to Chapter 551, Government Code.

12                  Sec. 104A.008. DEPARTMENT AUTHORITY TO COLLECT DATA.  
13                  Nothing in this chapter may be construed to limit the collection of  
14                  health care facility data by the department or a program the  
15                  department administers in accordance with other law.

16                  SECTION 2. Section 56.3075(a), Education Code, is amended  
17 to read as follows:

18                  (a) If the money available for TEXAS grants in a period for  
19 which grants are awarded is sufficient to provide grants to all  
20 eligible applicants in amounts specified by Section 56.307, the  
21 coordinating board may use any excess money available for TEXAS  
22 grants to award a grant in an amount not more than three times the  
23 amount that may be awarded under Section 56.307 to a student who:

24                  (1) is enrolled in a program that fulfills the  
25 educational requirements for licensure or certification by the  
26 state in a health care profession that the coordinating board, in  
27 consultation with the Texas Workforce Commission and the Department

1 of State Health Services [~~statewide health coordinating council~~],  
2 has identified as having a critical shortage in the number of  
3 license holders needed in this state;

4 (2) has completed at least one-half of the work toward  
5 a degree or certificate that fulfills the educational requirement  
6 for licensure or certification; and

7 (3) meets all the requirements to receive a grant  
8 award under Section 56.307.

9 SECTION 3. Section 56.4075(a), Education Code, is amended  
10 to read as follows:

11 (a) The coordinating board may award a grant in an amount  
12 not more than three times the amount that may be awarded under  
13 Section 56.407 to a student who:

14 (1) is enrolled in a program that fulfills the  
15 educational requirements for licensure or certification by the  
16 state in a health care profession that the coordinating board, in  
17 consultation with the Texas Workforce Commission and the Department  
18 of State Health Services [~~statewide health coordinating council~~],  
19 has identified as having a critical shortage in the number of  
20 license holders needed in this state;

21 (2) has completed at least one-half of the work toward  
22 a degree or certificate that fulfills the educational requirement  
23 for licensure or certification; and

24 (3) meets all the requirements to receive a grant  
25 award under Section 56.407.

26 SECTION 4. Section 61.9641, Education Code, is amended to  
27 read as follows:

1                   Sec. 61.9641. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

2                   (1) "Clinical site" means an acute care or  
3 rehabilitation facility, a primary care setting, a long-term care  
4 facility, a nursing home, a residential care setting, or any other  
5 site identified by the board as providing clinical learning  
6 experiences for nursing students.

7                   (2) "Nursing advisory committee" means the nursing  
8 advisory committee established under Section 104A.007 [~~104.0155~~],  
9 Health and Safety Code.

10                  SECTION 5. Sections 32.046(c) and (d), Health and Safety  
11 Code, are amended to read as follows:

12                  (c) The commission shall coordinate with the department,  
13 [~~the statewide health coordinating council~~] the office of mental  
14 health coordination, and the statewide behavioral health  
15 coordinating council in developing the strategic plan.

16                  (d) The commission, in consultation with the department,  
17 [~~the statewide health coordinating council~~] the office of mental  
18 health coordination, and the statewide behavioral health  
19 coordinating council, shall annually review and update, as  
20 necessary, the strategic plan.

21                  SECTION 6. Sections 32.047(d) and (e), Health and Safety  
22 Code, are amended to read as follows:

23                  (d) The commission shall coordinate with the department  
24 [~~and the statewide health coordinating council~~] in the development  
25 of the strategic plan.

26                  (e) The commission, in consultation with the department  
27 [~~and the statewide health coordinating council~~], shall annually

1 review the strategic plan and update the plan as necessary.

2 SECTION 7. Section 105.001(2), Health and Safety Code, is  
3 amended to read as follows:

4 (2) "Council" means the Health Professions Workforce  
5 Coordinating Council [~~statewide health coordinating council~~].

6 SECTION 8. Section 105.002(b), Health and Safety Code, is  
7 amended to read as follows:

8 (b) In conjunction with the nursing advisory committee  
9 formed under Section 104A.007 [~~104.0155~~], to avoid duplication of  
10 effort, and to the extent funding is available through fees  
11 collected under Section 301.155(c), Occupations Code, the council  
12 shall establish a nursing resource section within the center for  
13 the collection and analysis of educational and employment trends  
14 for nurses in this state.

15 SECTION 9. Section 222.022(2), Health and Safety Code, is  
16 amended to read as follows:

17 (2) "Health care facility" means a public or private  
18 hospital, skilled nursing facility, intermediate care facility,  
19 ambulatory surgical center, family planning clinic that performs  
20 ambulatory surgical procedures, rural or urban health initiative  
21 clinic, end stage renal disease facility, and inpatient  
22 rehabilitation facility. The term does not include the office of  
23 physicians or practitioners of the healing arts practicing  
24 individually or in groups or [~~has the meaning assigned by Section~~  
25 ~~104.002, except that the term does not include~~] a chemical  
26 dependency treatment facility licensed by the Department of State  
27 Health Services under Chapter 464.

1 SECTION 10. The following provisions of the Health and  
2 Safety Code are repealed:

3 (1) Chapter 104;  
4 (2) Section 105.011(c); and  
5 (3) Section 311.033(d).

6 SECTION 11. (a) On the effective date of this Act:

7 (1) the statewide health coordinating council  
8 established under Subchapter B, Chapter 104, Health and Safety  
9 Code, is abolished, and the council member terms expire; and  
10 (2) the nursing advisory committee established under  
11 Section 104.0155, Health and Safety Code, is abolished, and the  
12 committee member terms expire.

13 (b) On the effective date of this Act, any appropriation to,  
14 and any unexpended, unobligated funds of the statewide health  
15 coordinating council or the nursing advisory committee, is an  
16 appropriation to the Department of State Health Services for  
17 purposes of establishing and providing administrative support to  
18 the Health Professions Workforce Coordinating Council. The  
19 department and council assume all obligations, property, rights,  
20 and duties of the statewide health coordinating council and the  
21 nursing advisory committee.

22 SECTION 12. (a) Not later than October 1, 2025, the  
23 appropriate entities shall designate members of the Health  
24 Professions Workforce Coordinating Council established under  
25 Chapter 104A, Health and Safety Code, as added by this Act.

26 (b) Not later than December 1, 2026, the Health Professions  
27 Workforce Coordinating Council established under Chapter 104A,

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1 Health and Safety Code, as added by this Act, shall appoint the  
2 members of the nursing advisory committee established under Section  
3 104A.007, Health and Safety Code, as added by this Act. An  
4 individual who is a member of the statewide health coordinating  
5 council nursing advisory committee established under Section  
6 104.0155, Health and Safety Code, as repealed by this Act, may be  
7 appointed as a member of the nursing advisory committee established  
8 under Section 104A.007, Health and Safety Code, as added by this  
9 Act.

10 (c) Not later than October 1, 2026, the Health Professions  
11 Workforce Coordinating Council established under Chapter 104A,  
12 Health and Safety Code, as added by this Act, shall publish its  
13 initial strategic plan as required by Section 104A.005, Health and  
14 Safety Code, as added by this Act.

15 SECTION 13. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.