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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
04/15/2025	.	
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The Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services
(Harrell) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete everything after the enacting clause
and insert:

Section 1. Subsection (5) is added to section 464.008,
Florida Statutes, and subsection (1) of that section is
republished, to read:

464.008 Licensure by examination.—

(1) Any person desiring to be licensed as a registered
nurse or licensed practical nurse shall apply to the department



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to take the licensure examination. The department shall examine each applicant who:

(a) Has completed the application form and remitted a fee set by the board not to exceed \$150 and has remitted an examination fee set by the board not to exceed \$75 plus the actual per applicant cost to the department for purchase of the examination from the National Council of State Boards of Nursing or a similar national organization.

(b) Has provided sufficient information on or after October 1, 1989, which must be submitted by the department for a statewide criminal records correspondence check through the Department of Law Enforcement.

(c) Is in good mental and physical health, is a recipient of a high school diploma or the equivalent, and has completed the requirements for:

1. Graduation from an approved program;
2. Graduation from a prelicensure nursing education program that the board determines is equivalent to an approved program;
3. Graduation on or after July 1, 2009, from an accredited program; or
4. Graduation before July 1, 2009, from a prelicensure nursing education program whose graduates at that time were eligible for examination.

Courses successfully completed in a professional nursing education program that are at least equivalent to a practical nursing education program may be used to satisfy the education requirements for licensure as a licensed practical nurse.

(d) Has the ability to communicate in the English language,



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which may be determined by an examination given by the department.

(5) Pursuant to s. 464.019(1)(k) establishing graduate nursing preceptorships, the department shall issue a provisional license to such graduates who also meet the criteria in paragraphs (1)(b), (c), and (d).

Section 2. Subsections (1) through (6) and (8) and paragraph (f) of subsection (11) of section 464.019, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

464.019 Approval of nursing education programs.—

(1) PROGRAM APPLICATION.—An educational institution that wishes to conduct a program in this state for the prelicensure education of professional or practical nurses must submit to the department a program application and review fee of \$1,000 for each prelicensure nursing education program to be offered at the institution's main campus, branch campus, or other instructional site. The program application must include the legal name of the educational institution, the legal name of the nursing education program, the legal name of the nursing education program

director, and, if such institution is accredited, the name of the accrediting agency. The application must also document that:

(a)1. For a professional nursing education program, the program director and at least 50 percent of the program's faculty members are registered nurses who have a master's or higher degree in nursing or a bachelor's degree in nursing and a master's or higher degree in a field related to nursing.

2. For a practical nursing education program, the program director and at least 50 percent of the program's faculty members are registered nurses who have a bachelor's or higher



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degree in nursing.

The educational degree requirements of this paragraph must ~~may~~ be documented by an official transcript or by a written statement from the program director of the educational institution verifying that the institution conferred the degree. The program director shall certify the official transcript or written statement as true and accurate.

(b) The program's nursing major curriculum consists of at least:

1. Fifty percent clinical training in the United States, the District of Columbia, or a possession or territory of the United States for a practical nursing education program, an associate degree professional nursing education program, or a professional diploma nursing education program.

2. Forty percent clinical training in the United States, the District of Columbia, or a possession or territory of the United States for a bachelor's degree professional nursing education program.

(c) No more than 50 percent of the program's clinical training consists of clinical simulation.

(d) The program has signed agreements with each agency, facility, and organization included in the curriculum plan as clinical training sites and community-based clinical experience sites.

(e) The program has written policies for faculty which include provisions for direct or indirect supervision by program faculty or clinical preceptors for students in clinical training consistent with the following standards:



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1. The number of program faculty members equals at least one faculty member directly supervising every 12 students unless the written agreement between the program and the agency, facility, or organization providing clinical training sites allows more students, not to exceed 18 students, to be directly supervised by one program faculty member.

2. For a hospital setting, indirect supervision may occur only if there is direct supervision by an assigned clinical preceptor, a supervising program faculty member is available by telephone, and such arrangement is approved by the clinical facility.

3. For community-based clinical experiences that involve student participation in invasive or complex nursing activities, students must be directly supervised by a program faculty member or clinical preceptor and such arrangement must be approved by the community-based clinical facility.

4. For community-based clinical experiences not subject to subparagraph 3., indirect supervision may occur only when a supervising program faculty member is available to the student by telephone.

A program's policies established under this paragraph must require that a clinical preceptor who is supervising students in a professional nursing education program be a registered nurse or, if supervising students in a practical nursing education program, be a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse.

(f) The professional or practical nursing curriculum plan documents clinical experience and theoretical instruction in medical, surgical, obstetric, pediatric, and geriatric nursing.



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A professional nursing curriculum plan must ~~shall~~ also document clinical experience and theoretical instruction in psychiatric nursing. Each curriculum plan must document clinical training experience in appropriate settings that include, but are not limited to, acute care, long-term care, and community settings.

(g) The professional or practical nursing education program provides theoretical instruction and clinical application in personal, family, and community health concepts; nutrition; human growth and development throughout the life span; body structure and function; interpersonal relationship skills; mental health concepts; pharmacology and administration of medications; and legal aspects of practice. A professional nursing education program must also provide theoretical instruction and clinical application in interpersonal relationships and leadership skills; professional role and function; and health teaching and counseling skills.

(h) The professional or practical nursing education program has established evaluation and standardized admission criteria. The admission criteria must, at a minimum, identify those students who are likely to need additional educational support to be successful program graduates. The program must maintain documentation of the individualized student academic support plan for those students identified as in need of additional preparation and educational support.

(i) For each student, the professional or practical nursing education program administers an exit examination that is a national, standardized, and comprehensive predictor exam designed to help nursing students assess their readiness for the National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensing



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Examination (NCLEX) by identifying areas needing further study and remediation. The exit examination may not be the sole exclusion to graduation if the student has otherwise successfully completed all coursework required by the program.

(j) The professional or practical nursing education program has submitted to the board the established criteria for remediation that will be offered to students who do not successfully pass the exit examination.

(k) Beginning August 1, 2026, a program with more than 10 percentage points lower than the average passage rate during the same calendar year for graduates of comparable degree programs who are United States-educated, first-time test takers on the NCLEX, as calculated by the contract testing service of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, shall offer a graduate nursing preceptorship to its graduates. All programs are encouraged to offer a graduate nursing preceptorship to their graduates to provide opportunities for job shadowing, clinical training, nonclinical training, and patient care in a hospital setting. A graduate nursing preceptorship must last for 3 months, with the expectation that graduates will take the NCLEX at the conclusion of the preceptorship. Graduate registered nurses and graduate licensed practical nurses must be supervised by clinical preceptors. The department shall issue temporary provisional registered nurse licenses to a graduate of a registered nursing program. The department shall issue temporary provisional licensed practical nurse licenses to a graduate of a licensed practical nursing program. If the examination, professional or practical nursing education program must offer remediation to the graduate for free. By January 1,



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2026, the Florida Center for Nursing shall establish standards for graduate nursing preceptorships, including supervision requirements. The board shall incorporate the standards into rule.

(2) PROGRAM APPROVAL.—

(a) Upon receipt of a program application and review fee, the department shall examine the application to determine if it is complete. If the application is not complete, the department ~~must~~ shall notify the educational institution in writing of any errors or omissions within 30 days after the department's receipt of the application. A program application is deemed complete upon the department's receipt of:

1. The initial application, if the department does not notify the educational institution of any errors or omissions within the 30-day period; or

2. A revised application that corrects each error and omission of which the department notifies the educational institution within the 30-day period.

(b) Following the department's receipt of a complete program application, the board may conduct an onsite evaluation if necessary to document the applicant's compliance with subsection (1). Within 90 days after the department's receipt of a complete program application, the board shall:

1. Approve the application if it documents compliance with subsection (1); or

2. Provide the educational institution with a notice of intent to deny the application if it does not document compliance with subsection (1). The notice must specify written reasons for the board's denial of the application. The board may



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not deny a program application because of an educational institution's failure to correct an error or omission that the department failed to provide notice of to the institution within the 30-day notice period under paragraph (a). The educational institution may request a hearing on the notice of intent to deny the program application pursuant to chapter 120.

(c) A program application is deemed approved if the board does not act within the 90-day review period provided under paragraph (b).

(d) Upon the board's approval of a program application, the program becomes an approved program.

(e) The board shall deny an application from a program that has had adverse action taken against it by another regulatory jurisdiction in the United States. The board may also revoke the approval of an existing approved program that has had adverse action taken against it by another regulatory jurisdiction in the United States. For purposes of this paragraph, the term "adverse action" means any administrative, civil, or criminal action imposed by a licensing board or other state authority against a program. The term includes actions such as revocation, suspension, probation, or any other encumbrance affecting the program's authorization to operate.

(3) ANNUAL REPORT.—By November 1 of each year, each approved program's director ~~program~~ shall submit to the board an annual report consisting ~~comprised~~ of an affidavit certifying continued compliance with subsection (1), a summary description of the program's compliance with subsection (1), and documentation for the previous academic year that, to the extent applicable, describes:



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(a) The number of student applications received, qualified applicants, applicants accepted, accepted applicants who enroll in the program, students enrolled in the program, and program graduates.

(b) The program's retention rates for students tracked from program entry to graduation.

(c) The program's accreditation status, including identification of the accrediting agency.

The board must terminate the program pursuant to chapter 120 if the requirements of this subsection are not met. Upon request, the board may give an extension for good cause not to exceed 60 days for a program to meet the requirements of this subsection. If a program director is found to be in violation of this subsection, the board may impose a penalty listed in s. 456.072(2).

(4) INTERNET WEBSITE.—The board shall publish the following information on its Internet website:

(a) A list of each accredited program conducted in the state and the program's graduate passage rates for the most recent 2 calendar years, which the department shall determine through the following sources:

1. For a program's accreditation status, the specialized accrediting agencies that are nationally recognized by the United States Secretary of Education to accredit nursing education programs.

2. For a program's graduate passage rates, the contract testing service of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing.



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(b) The following data for each approved program, which includes, to the extent applicable:

1. All documentation provided by the program in its program application.

2. The summary description of the program's compliance submitted under subsection (3).

3. The program's accreditation status, including identification of the accrediting agency.

4. The program's probationary status.

5. The program's graduate passage rates for the most recent 2 calendar years.

6. Each program's retention rates for students tracked from program entry to graduation.

(c) The average passage rates for United States educated, first-time test takers on the National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensing Examination for the most recent 2 calendar years, as calculated by the contract testing service of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing. The average passage rates shall be published separately for each type of comparable degree program listed in subparagraph (5)(a)1., and individually for each approved nursing program.

The information required to be published under this subsection shall be made available in a manner that allows interactive searches and comparisons of individual programs selected by the website user. The board shall update the Internet website at least quarterly with the available information.

(5) ACCOUNTABILITY.—

(a)1. An approved program must achieve a graduate passage



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rate for first-time test takers which is not more than 10 percentage points lower than the average passage rate during the same calendar year for graduates of comparable degree programs who are United States educated, first-time test takers on the National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensing Examination, as calculated by the contract testing service of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing. For purposes of this subparagraph, an approved program is comparable to all degree programs of the same program type from among the following program types:

a. Professional nursing education programs that terminate in a bachelor's degree.

b. Professional nursing education programs that terminate in an associate degree.

c. Professional nursing education programs that terminate in a diploma.

d. Practical nursing education programs.

2. If an approved program's graduate passage rates do not equal or exceed the required passage rates for 2 consecutive calendar years, the board must ~~shall~~ place the program on probationary status pursuant to chapter 120 and the program director must submit a written remediation plan to the board. The program director must ~~shall~~ appear before the board to present the ~~a~~ plan for remediation, which must ~~shall~~ include specific nationally recognized benchmarks to identify progress toward a graduate passage rate goal. The board must terminate a program pursuant to chapter 120 if the program director fails to submit a written remediation plan or fails to appear before the board and present the remediation plan no later than 6 months



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after the date of the program being placed on probation. The board may impose a penalty listed in s. 456.072(2) on the program director for such failure. The program must remain on probationary status until it achieves a graduate passage rate that equals or exceeds the required passage rate for any 1 calendar year. The board must ~~shall~~ deny a program application for a new prelicensure nursing education program submitted by an educational institution if the institution has an existing program that is already on probationary status.

3. Upon the program's achievement of a graduate passage rate that equals or exceeds the required passage rate, the board, at its next regularly scheduled meeting following release of the program's graduate passage rate by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, shall remove the program's probationary status. If the program, during the 2 calendar years following its placement on probationary status, does not achieve the required passage rate for any 1 calendar year, the board must ~~may extend the program's probationary status for 1 additional year, provided the program has demonstrated adequate progress toward the graduate passage rate goal by meeting a majority of the benchmarks established in the remediation plan.~~ If the program is not granted the 1-year extension or fails to achieve the required passage rate by the end of such extension, ~~the board shall~~ terminate the program pursuant to chapter 120.

(b) If an approved program fails to submit the annual report required in subsection (3), the board must ~~shall~~ notify the program director and president or chief executive officer of the educational institution in writing within 15 days after the due date of the annual report. The program director must ~~shall~~



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appear before the board at the board's next regularly scheduled meeting to explain the reason for the delay. The board must ~~shall~~ terminate the program pursuant to chapter 120 if the program director fails to appear before the board, as required under this paragraph, or if the program does not submit the annual report within 6 months after the due date.

(c) A nursing education program, whether accredited or nonaccredited, which has been placed on probationary status must ~~shall~~ disclose its probationary status in writing to the program's students and applicants. The notification must include an explanation of the implications of the program's probationary status on the students or applicants.

(d) If students from a program that is terminated pursuant to this subsection transfer to an approved or an accredited program under the direction of the Commission for Independent Education, the board must ~~shall~~ recalculate the passage rates of the programs receiving the transferring students, excluding the test scores of those students transferring more than 12 credits.

(e) Duly authorized agents or employees of the department may conduct onsite evaluations or inspections at any time during business hours to ensure that approved programs or accredited programs are in full compliance with this chapter, or to determine whether this chapter or s. 456.072 is being violated. The department may collect any necessary evidence needed to ensure compliance with this chapter or for prosecution as deemed necessary. A failure of a program to refuse or allow an onsite evaluation or inspection is deemed a violation of a legal obligation imposed by the board or the department.

(6) DISCLOSURE OF GRADUATE PASSAGE RATE DATA.—



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(a) For each graduate of the program included in the calculation of the program's graduate passage rate, the department shall disclose to the program director, ~~upon his or her written request,~~ the name, examination date, and determination of whether each graduate passed or failed the National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensing Examination, if such information is provided to the department by the contract testing service of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing. The department shall disclose to the program director the average passage rate for graduates from its program ~~written request must specify the calendar years for which the information is requested.~~

(b) A program director to whom confidential information exempt from public disclosure pursuant to s. 456.014 is disclosed under this subsection must maintain the confidentiality of the information and is subject to the same penalties provided in s. 456.082 for department employees who unlawfully disclose confidential information.

(c) The program director is responsible for ensuring that the graduate average passage rate, as reported by the department, is posted on the program's website.

(8) RULEMAKING.—The board does not have rulemaking authority to administer this section, except that the board shall adopt rules that prescribe the format for submitting program applications under subsection (1) and annual reports under subsection (3), to implement graduate nursing preceptorships as established in paragraph (1)(k), to enforce and administer subsection (5), and to administer the documentation of the accreditation of nursing education programs



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under subsection (11). The board may adopt rules relating to the nursing curriculum, including rules relating to the uses and limitations of simulation technology, ~~and rules relating to the criteria to qualify for an extension of time to meet the accreditation requirements under paragraph (11)(f).~~ The board may not impose any condition or requirement on an educational institution submitting a program application, an approved program, or an accredited program, except as expressly provided in this section.

(11) ACCREDITATION REQUIRED.—

~~(f) An approved nursing education program may, no sooner than 90 days before the deadline for meeting the accreditation requirements of this subsection, apply to the board for an extension of the accreditation deadline for a period which does not exceed 2 years. An additional extension may not be granted. In order to be eligible for the extension, the approved program must establish that it has a graduate passage rate of 60 percent or higher on the National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensing Examination for the most recent calendar year and must meet a majority of the board's additional criteria, including, but not limited to, all of the following:~~

~~1. A student retention rate of 60 percent or higher for the most recent calendar year.~~

~~2. A graduate work placement rate of 70 percent or higher for the most recent calendar year.~~

~~3. The program has applied for approval or been approved by an institutional or programmatic accreditor recognized by the United States Department of Education.~~

~~4. The program is in full compliance with subsections (1)~~



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~~and (3) and paragraph (5) (b).~~

~~5. The program is not currently in its second year of
probationary status under subsection (5).~~

~~The applicable deadline under this paragraph is tolled from the
date on which an approved program applies for an extension until
the date on which the board issues a decision on the requested
extension.~~

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

And the title is amended as follows:

Delete everything before the enacting clause
and insert:

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to nursing education programs;
amending s. 464.008, F.S., requiring the Department of
Health to issue provisional licenses to graduate
licensed practical nurses and graduate registered
nurses under the supervision of clinical preceptors;
amending s. 464.019, F.S.; revising application
requirements for nursing education program approval;
providing preceptorship requirements; requiring the
Florida Center for Nursing to develop graduate nursing
preceptorship standards by a specified date; requiring
the Board of Nursing to incorporate the standards into
rule; clarifying that the Board of Nursing must
publish the graduate average passage rate of each
approved nursing program on its website; requiring the



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board to deny an application under certain
circumstances; requiring the board to revoke an
existing program's approval under certain
circumstances; defining the term "adverse action";
revising requirements for annual reports approved
programs are required to submit to the board;
requiring the board to terminate a program under
certain circumstances; providing penalties for program
directors found to be in violation of specified
provisions; revising remediation procedures for
approved programs with graduate passage rates that do
not meet specified requirements; subjecting program
directors of approved programs to specified
disciplinary action under certain circumstances;
deleting a provision authorizing the board to extend a
program's probationary status; authorizing agents or
employees of the department to conduct onsite
evaluations and inspections of approved and accredited
nursing education programs; authorizing the department
to collect evidence as part of such evaluations and
inspections; deeming failure or refusal of a program
to allow such evaluation or inspection as a violation
of a legal obligation; requiring the department to
disclose graduate average passage rates to each
program director; providing that program directors are
responsible for ensuring that graduate average passage
rates are posted on the program's website; revising
rulemaking authority of the board; deleting a
provision authorizing approved nursing education



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504 programs to request an extension to meet the board's
505 accreditation requirements; providing an effective
506 date.