

By Senator Harrell

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to human trafficking training for
3 nursing students; amending s. 464.019, F.S.; requiring
4 nursing education programs to include a course on
5 human trafficking meeting specified criteria as part
6 of their core curriculum; requiring that the course be
7 approved by the Board of Nursing; requiring that
8 students complete the course before graduating from
9 such programs; requiring the board, in coordination
10 with the Department of Health, to oversee
11 implementation and enforcement of the new education
12 requirements; requiring the board and the department
13 to consult with certain entities to ensure the course
14 curriculum remains consistent with certain criteria;
15 providing applicability; providing an effective date.
16

17 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that human trafficking is a
18 critical public health crisis and safety issue affecting
19 thousands of individuals across Florida, and

20 WHEREAS, nurses play a key role in identifying and
21 assisting victims of human trafficking, as nurses are often
22 among the first and the last health care providers to interact
23 with individuals at risk, and

24 WHEREAS, the state has already taken steps to educate
25 licensed nurses on human trafficking through chapter 2017-23,
26 Laws of Florida, which requires continuing education on human
27 trafficking biennially as a condition of licensure renewal for
28 nurses, and

29 WHEREAS, to expand and strengthen these efforts, the

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Legislature finds that requiring human trafficking training as a condition for initial licensure for nurses will ensure that all newly licensed nurses in Florida enter the workforce with the skills and knowledge to identify and respond to human trafficking cases, NOW, THEREFORE,

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Paragraph (h) is added to subsection (1) of section 464.019, Florida Statutes, 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, and, if such institution is accredited, the name of the accrediting agency. The application must also document that:

(h) The professional or practical nursing education program requires students to complete a 2-hour course on human trafficking which meets the requirements of s. 464.013(3)(c) as part of its core curriculum. The course must be approved by the board. The program must require students to complete the course before graduating from the program. The board, in coordination with the department, shall oversee implementation and enforcement of this paragraph and consult with human trafficking

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advocacy organizations and local law enforcement agencies to
ensure that the course curriculum offered by nursing education
programs remains consistent with current laws and best practices
and aligns with existing human trafficking education efforts.

This paragraph applies to students who enroll in a nursing
education program on or after July 1, 2027.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.