

By Senator Campbell

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A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to nursing training programs;  
amending s. 464.019, F.S.; revising provisions  
governing approval of training programs by the  
Board of Nursing; providing for the adoption of  
rules; exempting certain programs from board  
oversight; providing for the review of certain  
substandard programs; providing an effective  
date.

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

Section 1. Section 464.019, Florida Statutes, is  
amended to read:

464.019 Approval of nursing programs.--

(1) An institution desiring to conduct an approved  
program for the education of professional or practical nurses  
shall apply to the department and submit such evidence as may  
be required to show that it complies with the provisions of  
this part and with the rules of the board. The board shall  
adopt rules regarding educational objectives, faculty  
qualifications, required curriculum guidelines, administrative  
procedures, and clinical training for initial program  
approval. A program may not be fully approved or exempted from  
these requirements prior to the graduation of its first class.  
The Board of Nursing must be notified of any substantial  
changes to an approved program, but may not review or  
disapprove such changes unless the program has fallen below  
the pass rate for students established in this section.The  
application shall include a program review fee, as set by the  
board, not to exceed \$1,000.

1           (2) The board and the Florida Board of Education shall  
2 jointly adopt rules regarding educational objectives, ~~faculty~~  
3 ~~qualifications, curriculum guidelines, administrative~~  
4 ~~procedures, and clinical training~~ as are necessary to ensure  
5 that approved programs graduate nurses capable of competent  
6 practice under this part. The rules must consider student  
7 attrition rate standards and retention of qualified faculty  
8 and shall establish thresholds to serve as indicators of  
9 successful program performance. An annual report of nursing  
10 education program performance shall be prepared for the  
11 Florida Board of Education.

12           (3) The department shall survey each institution  
13 applying for approval and submit its findings to the board.  
14 If the board is satisfied that the program meets the  
15 requirements of this part and rules pursuant thereto, it shall  
16 certify the program for approval and the department shall  
17 approve the program.

18           (4) Any fully approved nursing program that maintains  
19 accreditation through an accrediting body recognized by the  
20 United States Department of Education, or any nursing program  
21 located within a regionally accredited institution of higher  
22 education, is exempt from continuing oversight of the board if  
23 it maintains a student pass rate on the National Clinical  
24 Licensure Exam of not less than 7 percentage points below the  
25 national average pass rate, as reported annually by the  
26 National Council of State Boards of Nursing.

27           (5) If an institution's rate drops below the standard  
28 established in subsection (4) for 3 consecutive years, the  
29 program must be reviewed by the Board of Nursing. The board  
30 may take necessary action to assist the program to return to  
31 compliance.~~(4) If the board, through an investigation by the~~

