

By the Committee on Health, Aging and Long-Term Care; and  
Senator Campbell

317-1860-02

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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 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 board may not adopt  
a rule that would prohibit any qualified institution from  
placing a student in a facility for clinical experience,

1 regardless of whether more than one nursing program is using  
2 the same facility for clinical experience.The application  
3 shall include a program review fee, as set by the board, not  
4 to exceed \$1,000.

5 (2) The board and the Florida Board of Education shall  
6 jointly adopt rules, in accordance with s. 120.54(2)(d),  
7 regarding educational objectives, ~~faculty qualifications,~~  
8 ~~curriculum guidelines, administrative procedures, and clinical~~  
9 ~~training~~ as are necessary to ensure that approved programs  
10 graduate nurses capable of competent practice under this part.  
11 The rules must consider student attrition rate standards and  
12 retention of qualified faculty and shall establish thresholds  
13 to serve as indicators of successful program performance.

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

20 (4) Any fully approved nursing program that maintains  
21 accreditation through an accrediting body recognized by the  
22 United States Department of Education, or any nursing program  
23 located within a regionally accredited institution of higher  
24 education, is exempt from review by the board if it maintains  
25 a student pass rate on the National Clinical Licensure Exam of  
26 not less than 10 percentage points below the national average  
27 pass rate, as reported annually by the National Council of  
28 State Boards of Nursing.

29 (5) If an institution's rate drops below the standard  
30 established in subsection (4) for 3 consecutive years, the  
31 program must be reviewed by the board. The board may take

1 necessary action to assist the program to return to  
2 compliance.~~(4) If the board, through an investigation by the~~  
3 ~~department, finds that an approved program no longer meets the~~  
4 ~~required standards, it may place the program on probationary~~  
5 ~~status until such time as the standards are restored. If a~~  
6 ~~program fails to correct these conditions within a specified~~  
7 ~~period of time, the board may rescind the approval.~~Any  
8 program having its approval rescinded shall have the right to  
9 reapply.

10 (6)~~(5)~~ Provisional approval of new programs may be  
11 granted pending the licensure results of the first graduating  
12 class.

13 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.

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15 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
16 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
17 Senate Bill 1496

18 The Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 1496 prohibits the  
19 Board of Nursing from adopting a rule that would prohibit any  
20 qualified institution from placing a student in a facility for  
21 clinical experience, regardless of whether more than one  
22 nursing program is using the same facility for clinical  
23 experience. It revises the requirements for accredited nursing  
24 programs to remain exempt from the Board of Nursing's review  
25 if they maintain a student pass rate on the national nursing  
26 licensure examination of not less than 10 percentage points,  
27 rather than 7 percentage points, below the national average  
28 pass rate on the nursing licensure examination. It deletes a  
29 requirement for an annual report of nursing education program  
30 performance to be prepared for the Florida Board of Education.  
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