

HB 1209

2009

1 A bill to be entitled  
2 An act relating to nursing programs; amending s. 464.003,  
3 F.S.; deleting the term "approved program" to conform to  
4 the repeal by the act of the Board of Nursing's authority  
5 to approve nursing programs; defining the term "eligible  
6 program"; amending s. 464.004, F.S.; revising the board's  
7 membership to include a nurse educator member of an  
8 eligible program; amending s. 464.008, F.S.; requiring  
9 applicants for licensure as a registered nurse or licensed  
10 practical nurse to be graduates of an eligible program;  
11 deleting a provision requiring such applicants to complete  
12 the graduation requirements of an approved program to  
13 conform to the repeal by the act of the board's authority  
14 to approve nursing programs; deleting a provision  
15 authorizing the board to approve equivalent requirements  
16 for professional nursing preparation; amending s. 464.015,  
17 F.S.; requiring that the terms "Graduate Nurse" and  
18 "Graduate Practical Nurse" be used only by graduates of  
19 eligible programs; conforming provisions to the repeal by  
20 the act of the board's authority to approve nursing  
21 programs; amending s. 464.022, F.S.; authorizing graduates  
22 of eligible programs to practice nursing pending the  
23 results of the licensing examination; conforming  
24 provisions to changes made by the act; repealing s.  
25 464.019, F.S., relating to the board's approval of nursing  
26 programs; providing an effective date.

27  
28 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 30 Section 1. Subsection (8) of section 464.003, Florida  
 31 Statutes, is amended to read:

32 464.003 Definitions.--As used in this part, the term:

33 (8) "Eligible ~~Approved~~ program" means a nursing program  
 34 offered by:

35 (a) A school district, public community college, or state  
 36 university;

37 (b) An institution licensed by the Commission for  
 38 Independent Education; or

39 (c) Another educational institution in the state, if the  
 40 nursing program is accredited by a national accrediting agency  
 41 recognized by the United States Department of Education  
 42 ~~conducted in a school, college, or university which is approved~~  
 43 ~~by the board pursuant to s. 464.019 for the education of nurses.~~

44 Section 2. Subsection (2) of section 464.004, Florida  
 45 Statutes, is amended to read:

46 464.004 Board of Nursing; membership; appointment;  
 47 terms.--

48 (2) Seven members of the board must be registered nurses  
 49 who are residents of this state and who have been engaged in the  
 50 practice of professional nursing for at least 4 years, including  
 51 at least one advanced registered nurse practitioner, one nurse  
 52 educator member of an eligible ~~approved~~ program, and one nurse  
 53 executive. These seven board members should be representative of  
 54 the diverse areas of practice within the nursing profession. In  
 55 addition, three members of the board must be licensed practical  
 56 nurses who are residents of this state and who have been

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57 | actively engaged in the practice of practical nursing for at  
58 | least 4 years prior to their appointment. The remaining three  
59 | members must be residents of the state who have never been  
60 | licensed as nurses and who are in no way connected with the  
61 | practice of nursing. No person may be appointed as a lay member  
62 | who is in any way connected with, or has any financial interest  
63 | in, any health care facility, agency, or insurer. At least one  
64 | member of the board must be 60 years of age or older.

65 | Section 3. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section  
66 | 464.008, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

67 | 464.008 Licensure by examination.--

68 | (1) Any person desiring to be licensed as a registered  
69 | nurse or licensed practical nurse shall apply to the department  
70 | to take the licensure examination. The department shall examine  
71 | each applicant who:

72 | (c) Is in good mental and physical health, is a recipient  
73 | of a high school diploma or the equivalent, and is a graduate of  
74 | an eligible program ~~and has completed the requirements for~~  
75 | ~~graduation from an approved program, or its equivalent as~~  
76 | ~~determined by the board, for the preparation of registered~~  
77 | ~~nurses or licensed practical nurses, whichever is applicable.~~

78 | Courses successfully completed in a professional nursing program  
79 | which are at least equivalent to a practical nursing program may  
80 | be used to satisfy the education requirements for licensure as a  
81 | licensed practical nurse.

82 | Section 4. Subsections (3) and (4) of section 464.015,  
83 | Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

84 | 464.015 Titles and abbreviations; restrictions; penalty.--

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85 (3) Only persons who are graduates of eligible ~~approved~~  
86 programs or the equivalent may use the term "Graduate Nurse" and  
87 the abbreviation "G.N.," pending the results of the first  
88 licensure examination for which they are eligible.

89 (4) Only persons who are graduates of eligible ~~approved~~  
90 programs or the equivalent may use the term "Graduate Practical  
91 Nurse" and the abbreviation "G.P.N.," pending the results of the  
92 first licensure examination for which they are eligible.

93 Section 5. Subsection (4) of section 464.022, Florida  
94 Statutes, is amended to read:

95 464.022 Exceptions.--No provision of this part shall be  
96 construed to prohibit:

97 (4) The practice of nursing by graduates of eligible  
98 ~~approved~~ programs ~~or the equivalent~~, pending the result of the  
99 first licensing examination for which they are eligible  
100 following graduation, provided they practice under direct  
101 supervision of a registered professional nurse. The board shall  
102 by rule define what constitutes direct supervision.

103 Section 6. Section 464.019, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

104 Section 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009.