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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

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House

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The Committee on Rules (Harrell) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete lines 652 - 701

and insert:

Section 16. Effective upon this act becoming a law, subsections (8) and (10) of section 464.019, Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraph (f) is added to subsection (11) of that section, to read:

464.019 Approval of nursing education programs.—

(8) RULEMAKING.—The board does not have rulemaking authority to administer this section, except that the board



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12 shall adopt rules that prescribe the format for submitting  
13 program applications under subsection (1) and annual reports  
14 under subsection (3), and to administer the documentation of the  
15 accreditation of nursing education programs under subsection  
16 (11). The board may adopt rules relating to the nursing  
17 curriculum, including rules relating to the uses and limitations  
18 of simulation technology, and rules relating to the criteria to  
19 qualify for an extension of time to meet the accreditation  
20 requirements under paragraph (11)(f). The board may not impose  
21 any condition or requirement on an educational institution  
22 submitting a program application, an approved program, or an  
23 accredited program, except as expressly provided in this  
24 section.

25 (10) IMPLEMENTATION STUDY.—The Florida Center for Nursing  
26 shall study the administration of this section and submit  
27 reports to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the  
28 Speaker of the House of Representatives annually by January 30,  
29 through January 30, 2025 ~~2020~~. The annual reports shall address  
30 the previous academic year; provide data on the measures  
31 specified in paragraphs (a) and (b), as such data becomes  
32 available; and include an evaluation of such data for purposes  
33 of determining whether this section is increasing the  
34 availability of nursing education programs and the production of  
35 quality nurses. The department and each approved program or  
36 accredited program shall comply with requests for data from the  
37 Florida Center for Nursing.

38 (a) The Florida Center for Nursing shall evaluate program-  
39 specific data for each approved program and accredited program  
40 conducted in the state, including, but not limited to:



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- 41           1. The number of programs and student slots available.
- 42           2. The number of student applications submitted, the number  
43 of qualified applicants, and the number of students accepted.
- 44           3. The number of program graduates.
- 45           4. Program retention rates of students tracked from program  
46 entry to graduation.
- 47           5. Graduate passage rates on the National Council of State  
48 Boards of Nursing Licensing Examination.
- 49           6. The number of graduates who become employed as practical  
50 or professional nurses in the state.
- 51           (b) The Florida Center for Nursing shall evaluate the  
52 board's implementation of the:
- 53           1. Program application approval process, including, but not  
54 limited to, the number of program applications submitted under  
55 subsection (1), ~~+~~ the number of program applications approved and  
56 denied by the board under subsection (2), ~~+~~ the number of denials  
57 of program applications reviewed under chapter 120, ~~+~~ and a  
58 description of the outcomes of those reviews.
- 59           2. Accountability processes, including, but not limited to,  
60 the number of programs on probationary status, the number of  
61 approved programs for which the program director is required to  
62 appear before the board under subsection (5), the number of  
63 approved programs terminated by the board, the number of  
64 terminations reviewed under chapter 120, and a description of  
65 the outcomes of those reviews.
- 66           (c) The Florida Center for Nursing shall complete an annual  
67 assessment of compliance by programs with the accreditation  
68 requirements of subsection (11), include in the assessment a  
69 determination of the accreditation process status for each



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70 program, and submit the assessment as part of the reports  
71 required by this subsection.

72 (11) ACCREDITATION REQUIRED.—

73 (f) To increase the supply of available nurses, it is the  
74 intent of the Legislature to accommodate nursing education  
75 programs that are in substantial compliance with this  
76 subsection. An approved nursing education program may, no sooner  
77 than 90 days before the deadline for meeting the accreditation  
78 requirements of this subsection, apply to the board for an  
79 extension of the accreditation deadline for a period which does  
80 not exceed 2 years. An additional extension may not be granted.  
81 In order to be eligible for the extension, the approved program  
82 must establish that it has a graduate passage rate of 60 percent  
83 or higher on the National Council of State Boards of Nursing  
84 Licensing Examination for the most recent calendar year and must  
85 meet a majority of the board's additional criteria, including,  
86 but not limited to, all of the following:

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

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

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

94 4. The program is in full compliance with subsections (1)  
95 and (3) and paragraph (5) (b).

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

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

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

105 And the title is amended as follows:

106 Delete lines 59 - 62

107 and insert:

108 464.019, F.S.; authorizing the Board of Nursing to  
109 adopt specified rules; extending through 2025 the  
110 Florida Center for Nursing's responsibility to study  
111 and issue an annual report on the implementation of  
112 nursing education programs; providing legislative  
113 intent; authorizing certain nursing education programs  
114 to apply for an extension for accreditation within a  
115 specified timeframe; providing limitations on and  
116 eligibility criteria for the extension; providing a  
117 tolling provision; amending s. 464.202, F.S.;