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House Resolution

A resolution requesting the National Council of State Boards of Nursing to produce and distribute the NCLEX examination and test preparation materials in Spanish in Florida.

WHEREAS, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing distributes the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) to Florida and other states in the United States, and

WHEREAS, Hispanic and Latino groups are the second-largest racial and ethnic groups in Florida representing 26 percent of the population, and which totals more than 5 million residents, and

WHEREAS, the NCLEX is a timed test that determines if a nursing student is adequately prepared to practice as a licensed nurse, and

WHEREAS, experience and studies have shown that the NCLEX test results for test takers for whom English is a second language are lower than for test takers for whom English is their first language, and

WHEREAS, Canada adopted the NCLEX as its licensing examination in 2012, even though it was only offered in English, and first time success rates on the examination for French-Canadian testers fell from 91 percent to 32 percent; however, in 2019, after the NCLEX was provided in French, the passage rates

26 | of French-Canadian speaking students on the nursing exam
 27 | increased substantially, resulting in more available nurses, and

28 | WHEREAS, Florida offers licensing examinations in Spanish
 29 | and other languages for many professions, including for dental
 30 | hygienists, real estate agents, certified nursing assistants,
 31 | contractors, food protection managers, cosmetologists, massage
 32 | therapists, driver license applicants, and certified medical
 33 | interpreters, and

34 | WHEREAS, Florida licensing entities, such as the Electrical
 35 | Contractors Licensing Board, offer special accommodations for
 36 | speakers of other languages, as do the rules of the Florida
 37 | Division of Medical Quality Assurance for Clinical Mental Health
 38 | Counselors, and several medical professions, including

39 | Psychology, Medicine, Osteopathy, Podiatry, Optometry, Speech-
 40 | Language Pathology and Audiology, and Chiropractic Medicine, and

41 | WHEREAS, according to the Florida Hospital Association,
 42 | Florida's nursing shortage is expected to reach 59,000 vacancies
 43 | by 2035, and

44 | WHEREAS, one of the goals of the Florida healthcare system
 45 | is to close the gap and increase the supply of available nurses
 46 | for hospitals and other health care facilities, and

47 | WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature has taken steps recently
 48 | to increase the supply of nurses in Florida by appropriating
 49 | funds through the General Appropriations Act to assist nursing
 50 | students and nursing programs, and

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2025

51 WHEREAS, House of Representatives recognizes that Florida
52 is experiencing a significant nursing shortage and that steps
53 need to be taken to assure that nursing students graduating from
54 Florida nursing programs have the best possible chance to pass
55 the NCLEX, and to work as nurses in this state, NOW, THEREFORE,

56

57 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
58 Florida:

59

60 That the National Council of State Boards of Nursing is
61 requested to produce and distribute an NCLEX examination in
62 Florida, along with test preparation materials, in Spanish.