

**By** the Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services;  
the Committee on Health Policy; and Senators Harrell and Sharief

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to nursing education programs;  
amending s. 464.008, F.S., requiring the Department of  
Health to issue provisional licenses to graduate  
licensed practical nurses and graduate registered  
nurses under the supervision of clinical preceptors;  
amending s. 464.019, F.S.; revising application  
requirements for nursing education program approval;  
providing preceptorship requirements; requiring the  
Florida Center for Nursing to develop graduate nursing  
preceptorship standards by a specified date; requiring  
the Board of Nursing to incorporate the standards into  
rule; clarifying that the Board of Nursing must  
publish the graduate average passage rate of each  
approved nursing program on its website; requiring the  
board to deny an application under certain  
circumstances; requiring the board to revoke an  
existing program's approval under certain  
circumstances; defining the term "adverse action";  
revising requirements for annual reports approved  
programs are required to submit to the board;  
requiring the board to terminate a program under  
certain circumstances; providing penalties for program  
directors found to be in violation of specified  
provisions; revising remediation procedures for  
approved programs with graduate passage rates that do  
not meet specified requirements; subjecting program  
directors of approved programs to specified  
disciplinary action under certain circumstances;

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30 deleting a provision authorizing the board to extend a  
31 program's probationary status; authorizing agents or  
32 employees of the department to conduct onsite  
33 evaluations and inspections of approved and accredited  
34 nursing education programs; authorizing the department  
35 to collect evidence as part of such evaluations and  
36 inspections; deeming failure or refusal of a program  
37 to allow such evaluation or inspection as a violation  
38 of a legal obligation; requiring the department to  
39 disclose graduate average passage rates to each  
40 program director; providing that program directors are  
41 responsible for ensuring that graduate average passage  
42 rates are posted on the program's website; revising  
43 rulemaking authority of the board; deleting a  
44 provision authorizing approved nursing education  
45 programs to request an extension to meet the board's  
46 accreditation requirements; providing an effective  
47 date.

48  
49 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

50  
51 Section 1. Subsection (5) is added to section 464.008,  
52 Florida Statutes, and subsection (1) of that section is  
53 republished, to read:

54 464.008 Licensure by examination.—

55 (1) Any person desiring to be licensed as a registered  
56 nurse or licensed practical nurse shall apply to the department  
57 to take the licensure examination. The department shall examine  
58 each applicant who:

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(a) Has completed the application form and remitted a fee set by the board not to exceed \$150 and has remitted an examination fee set by the board not to exceed \$75 plus the actual per applicant cost to the department for purchase of the examination from the National Council of State Boards of Nursing or a similar national organization.

(b) Has provided sufficient information on or after October 1, 1989, which must be submitted by the department for a statewide criminal records correspondence check through the Department of Law Enforcement.

(c) Is in good mental and physical health, is a recipient of a high school diploma or the equivalent, and has completed the requirements for:

1. Graduation from an approved program;
2. Graduation from a prelicensure nursing education program that the board determines is equivalent to an approved program;
3. Graduation on or after July 1, 2009, from an accredited program; or
4. Graduation before July 1, 2009, from a prelicensure nursing education program whose graduates at that time were eligible for examination.

Courses successfully completed in a professional nursing education program that are at least equivalent to a practical nursing education program may be used to satisfy the education requirements for licensure as a licensed practical nurse.

(d) Has the ability to communicate in the English language, which may be determined by an examination given by the department.

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88       (5) Pursuant to s. 464.019(1)(k) establishing graduate  
89 nursing preceptorships, the department shall issue a provisional  
90 license to such graduates who also meet the criteria in  
91 paragraphs (1)(b), (c), and (d).

92       Section 2. Subsections (1) through (6) and (8) and  
93 paragraph (f) of subsection (11) of section 464.019, Florida  
94 Statutes, are amended to read:

95       464.019 Approval of nursing education programs.—

96       (1) PROGRAM APPLICATION.—An educational institution that  
97 wishes to conduct a program in this state for the prelicensure  
98 education of professional or practical nurses must submit to the  
99 department a program application and review fee of \$1,000 for  
100 each prelicensure nursing education program to be offered at the  
101 institution's main campus, branch campus, or other instructional  
102 site. The program application must include the legal name of the  
103 educational institution, the legal name of the nursing education  
104 program, the legal name of the nursing education program  
105 director, and, if such institution is accredited, the name of  
106 the accrediting agency. The application must also document that:

107       (a)1. For a professional nursing education program, the  
108 program director and at least 50 percent of the program's  
109 faculty members are registered nurses who have a master's or  
110 higher degree in nursing or a bachelor's degree in nursing and a  
111 master's or higher degree in a field related to nursing.

112       2. For a practical nursing education program, the program  
113 director and at least 50 percent of the program's faculty  
114 members are registered nurses who have a bachelor's or higher  
115 degree in nursing.

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117 The educational degree requirements of this paragraph must ~~may~~  
118 be documented by an official transcript or by a written  
119 statement from the program director of the educational  
120 institution verifying that the institution conferred the degree.  
121 The program director shall certify the official transcript or  
122 written statement as true and accurate.

123 (b) The program's nursing major curriculum consists of at  
124 least:

125 1. Fifty percent clinical training in the United States,  
126 the District of Columbia, or a possession or territory of the  
127 United States for a practical nursing education program, an  
128 associate degree professional nursing education program, or a  
129 professional diploma nursing education program.

130 2. Forty percent clinical training in the United States,  
131 the District of Columbia, or a possession or territory of the  
132 United States for a bachelor's degree professional nursing  
133 education program.

134 (c) No more than 50 percent of the program's clinical  
135 training consists of clinical simulation.

136 (d) The program has signed agreements with each agency,  
137 facility, and organization included in the curriculum plan as  
138 clinical training sites and community-based clinical experience  
139 sites.

140 (e) The program has written policies for faculty which  
141 include provisions for direct or indirect supervision by program  
142 faculty or clinical preceptors for students in clinical training  
143 consistent with the following standards:

144 1. The number of program faculty members equals at least  
145 one faculty member directly supervising every 12 students unless

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the written agreement between the program and the agency, facility, or organization providing clinical training sites allows more students, not to exceed 18 students, to be directly supervised by one program faculty member.

2. For a hospital setting, indirect supervision may occur only if there is direct supervision by an assigned clinical preceptor, a supervising program faculty member is available by telephone, and such arrangement is approved by the clinical facility.

3. For community-based clinical experiences that involve student participation in invasive or complex nursing activities, students must be directly supervised by a program faculty member or clinical preceptor and such arrangement must be approved by the community-based clinical facility.

4. For community-based clinical experiences not subject to subparagraph 3., indirect supervision may occur only when a supervising program faculty member is available to the student by telephone.

A program's policies established under this paragraph must require that a clinical preceptor who is supervising students in a professional nursing education program be a registered nurse or, if supervising students in a practical nursing education program, be a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse.

(f) The professional or practical nursing curriculum plan documents clinical experience and theoretical instruction in medical, surgical, obstetric, pediatric, and geriatric nursing. A professional nursing curriculum plan must ~~shall~~ also document clinical experience and theoretical instruction in psychiatric

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nursing. Each curriculum plan must document clinical training experience in appropriate settings that include, but are not limited to, acute care, long-term care, and community settings.

(g) The professional or practical nursing education program provides theoretical instruction and clinical application in personal, family, and community health concepts; nutrition; human growth and development throughout the life span; body structure and function; interpersonal relationship skills; mental health concepts; pharmacology and administration of medications; and legal aspects of practice. A professional nursing education program must also provide theoretical instruction and clinical application in interpersonal relationships and leadership skills; professional role and function; and health teaching and counseling skills.

(h) The professional or practical nursing education program has established evaluation and standardized admission criteria. The admission criteria must, at a minimum, identify those students who are likely to need additional educational support to be successful program graduates. The program must maintain documentation of the individualized student academic support plan for those students identified as in need of additional preparation and educational support.

(i) For each student, the professional or practical nursing education program administers an exit examination that is a national, standardized, and comprehensive predictor exam designed to help nursing students assess their readiness for the National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensing Examination (NCLEX) by identifying areas needing further study and remediation. The exit examination may not be the sole

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204 exclusion to graduation if the student has otherwise  
205 successfully completed all coursework required by the program.

206 (j) The professional or practical nursing education program  
207 has submitted to the board the established criteria for  
208 remediation that will be offered to students who do not  
209 successfully pass the exit examination.

210 (k) Beginning August 1, 2026, a program with more than 10  
211 percentage points lower than the average passage rate during the  
212 same calendar year for graduates of comparable degree programs  
213 who are United States-educated, first-time test takers on the  
214 NCLEX, as calculated by the contract testing service of the  
215 National Council of State Boards of Nursing, shall offer a  
216 graduate nursing preceptorship to its graduates. All programs  
217 are encouraged to offer a graduate nursing preceptorship to  
218 their graduates to provide opportunities for job shadowing,  
219 clinical training, nonclinical training, and patient care in a  
220 hospital setting. A graduate nursing preceptorship must last for  
221 3 months, with the expectation that graduates will take the  
222 NCLEX at the conclusion of the preceptorship. Graduate  
223 registered nurses and graduate licensed practical nurses must be  
224 supervised by clinical preceptors. The department shall issue  
225 temporary provisional registered nurse licenses to a graduate of  
226 a registered nursing program. The department shall issue  
227 temporary provisional licensed practical nurse licenses to a  
228 graduate of a licensed practical nursing program. If the  
229 examination, professional or practical nursing education program  
230 must offer remediation to the graduate for free. By January 1,  
231 2026, the Florida Center for Nursing shall establish standards  
232 for graduate nursing preceptorships, including supervision



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233 requirements. The board shall incorporate the standards into  
234 rule.

235 (2) PROGRAM APPROVAL.—

236 (a) Upon receipt of a program application and review fee,  
237 the department shall examine the application to determine if it  
238 is complete. If the application is not complete, the department  
239 must ~~shall~~ notify the educational institution in writing of any  
240 errors or omissions within 30 days after the department's  
241 receipt of the application. A program application is deemed  
242 complete upon the department's receipt of:

243 1. The initial application, if the department does not  
244 notify the educational institution of any errors or omissions  
245 within the 30-day period; or

246 2. A revised application that corrects each error and  
247 omission of which the department notifies the educational  
248 institution within the 30-day period.

249 (b) Following the department's receipt of a complete  
250 program application, the board may conduct an onsite evaluation  
251 if necessary to document the applicant's compliance with  
252 subsection (1). Within 90 days after the department's receipt of  
253 a complete program application, the board shall:

254 1. Approve the application if it documents compliance with  
255 subsection (1); or

256 2. Provide the educational institution with a notice of  
257 intent to deny the application if it does not document  
258 compliance with subsection (1). The notice must specify written  
259 reasons for the board's denial of the application. The board may  
260 not deny a program application because of an educational  
261 institution's failure to correct an error or omission that the

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department failed to provide notice of to the institution within the 30-day notice period under paragraph (a). The educational institution may request a hearing on the notice of intent to deny the program application pursuant to chapter 120.

(c) A program application is deemed approved if the board does not act within the 90-day review period provided under paragraph (b).

(d) Upon the board's approval of a program application, the program becomes an approved program.

(e) The board shall deny an application from a program that has had adverse action taken against it by another regulatory jurisdiction in the United States. The board may also revoke the approval of an existing approved program that has had adverse action taken against it by another regulatory jurisdiction in the United States. For purposes of this paragraph, the term "adverse action" means any administrative, civil, or criminal action imposed by a licensing board or other state authority against a program. The term includes actions such as revocation, suspension, probation, or any other encumbrance affecting the program's authorization to operate.

(3) ANNUAL REPORT.—By November 1 of each year, each approved program's director ~~program~~ shall submit to the board an annual report consisting ~~comprised~~ of an affidavit certifying continued compliance with subsection (1), a summary description of the program's compliance with subsection (1), and documentation for the previous academic year that, to the extent applicable, describes:

(a) The number of student applications received, qualified applicants, applicants accepted, accepted applicants who enroll

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in the program, students enrolled in the program, and program graduates.

(b) The program's retention rates for students tracked from program entry to graduation.

(c) The program's accreditation status, including identification of the accrediting agency.

The board must terminate the program pursuant to chapter 120 if the requirements of this subsection are not met. Upon request, the board may give an extension for good cause not to exceed 60 days for a program to meet the requirements of this subsection. If a program director is found to be in violation of this subsection, the board may impose a penalty listed in s. 456.072(2).

(4) INTERNET WEBSITE.—The board shall publish the following information on its Internet website:

(a) A list of each accredited program conducted in the state and the program's graduate passage rates for the most recent 2 calendar years, which the department shall determine through the following sources:

1. For a program's accreditation status, the specialized accrediting agencies that are nationally recognized by the United States Secretary of Education to accredit nursing education programs.

2. For a program's graduate passage rates, the contract testing service of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing.

(b) The following data for each approved program, which includes, to the extent applicable:

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1. All documentation provided by the program in its program application.

2. The summary description of the program's compliance submitted under subsection (3).

3. The program's accreditation status, including identification of the accrediting agency.

4. The program's probationary status.

5. The program's graduate passage rates for the most recent 2 calendar years.

6. Each program's retention rates for students tracked from program entry to graduation.

(c) The average passage rates for United States educated, first-time test takers on the National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensing Examination for the most recent 2 calendar years, as calculated by the contract testing service of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing. The average passage rates shall be published separately for each type of comparable degree program listed in subparagraph (5)(a)1., and individually for each approved nursing program.

The information required to be published under this subsection shall be made available in a manner that allows interactive searches and comparisons of individual programs selected by the website user. The board shall update the Internet website at least quarterly with the available information.

(5) ACCOUNTABILITY.—

(a)1. An approved program must achieve a graduate passage rate for first-time test takers which is not more than 10 percentage points lower than the average passage rate during the

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349 same calendar year for graduates of comparable degree programs  
350 who are United States educated, first-time test takers on the  
351 National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensing  
352 Examination, as calculated by the contract testing service of  
353 the National Council of State Boards of Nursing. For purposes of  
354 this subparagraph, an approved program is comparable to all  
355 degree programs of the same program type from among the  
356 following program types:

357 a. Professional nursing education programs that terminate  
358 in a bachelor's degree.

359 b. Professional nursing education programs that terminate  
360 in an associate degree.

361 c. Professional nursing education programs that terminate  
362 in a diploma.

363 d. Practical nursing education programs.

364 2. If an approved program's graduate passage rates do not  
365 equal or exceed the required passage rates for 2 consecutive  
366 calendar years, the board must ~~shall~~ place the program on  
367 probationary status pursuant to chapter 120 and the program  
368 director must submit a written remediation plan to the board.  
369 The program director must ~~shall~~ appear before the board to  
370 present the ~~a~~ plan for remediation, which must ~~shall~~ include  
371 specific nationally recognized benchmarks to identify progress  
372 toward a graduate passage rate goal. The board must terminate a  
373 program pursuant to chapter 120 if the program director fails to  
374 submit a written remediation plan or fails to appear before the  
375 board and present the remediation plan no later than 6 months  
376 after the date of the program being placed on probation. The  
377 board may impose a penalty listed in s. 456.072(2) on the

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378 program director for such failure. The program must remain on  
379 probationary status until it achieves a graduate passage rate  
380 that equals or exceeds the required passage rate for ~~any~~ 1  
381 calendar year. The board must ~~shall~~ deny a program application  
382 for a new prelicensure nursing education program submitted by an  
383 educational institution if the institution has an existing  
384 program that is already on probationary status.

385 3. Upon the program's achievement of a graduate passage  
386 rate that equals or exceeds the required passage rate, the  
387 board, at its next regularly scheduled meeting following release  
388 of the program's graduate passage rate by the National Council  
389 of State Boards of Nursing, shall remove the program's  
390 probationary status. If the program, during the 2 calendar years  
391 following its placement on probationary status, does not achieve  
392 the required passage rate ~~for any 1 calendar year~~, the board  
393 must ~~may extend the program's probationary status for 1~~  
394 ~~additional year, provided the program has demonstrated adequate~~  
395 ~~progress toward the graduate passage rate goal by meeting a~~  
396 ~~majority of the benchmarks established in the remediation plan.~~  
397 ~~If the program is not granted the 1-year extension or fails to~~  
398 ~~achieve the required passage rate by the end of such extension,~~  
399 ~~the board shall~~ terminate the program pursuant to chapter 120.

400 (b) If an approved program fails to submit the annual  
401 report required in subsection (3), the board must ~~shall~~ notify  
402 the program director and president or chief executive officer of  
403 the educational institution in writing within 15 days after the  
404 due date of the annual report. The program director must ~~shall~~  
405 appear before the board at the board's next regularly scheduled  
406 meeting to explain the reason for the delay. The board must

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407 ~~shall~~ terminate the program pursuant to chapter 120 if the  
408 program director fails to appear before the board, as required  
409 under this paragraph, or if the program does not submit the  
410 annual report within 6 months after the due date.

411 (c) A nursing education program, whether accredited or  
412 nonaccredited, which has been placed on probationary status must  
413 ~~shall~~ disclose its probationary status in writing to the  
414 program's students and applicants. The notification must include  
415 an explanation of the implications of the program's probationary  
416 status on the students or applicants.

417 (d) If students from a program that is terminated pursuant  
418 to this subsection transfer to an approved or an accredited  
419 program under the direction of the Commission for Independent  
420 Education, the board must ~~shall~~ recalculate the passage rates of  
421 the programs receiving the transferring students, excluding the  
422 test scores of those students transferring more than 12 credits.

423 (e) Duly authorized agents or employees of the department  
424 may conduct onsite evaluations or inspections at any time during  
425 business hours to ensure that approved programs or accredited  
426 programs are in full compliance with this chapter, or to  
427 determine whether this chapter or s. 456.072 is being violated.  
428 The department may collect any necessary evidence needed to  
429 ensure compliance with this chapter or for prosecution as deemed  
430 necessary. A failure of a program to refuse or allow an onsite  
431 evaluation or inspection is deemed a violation of a legal  
432 obligation imposed by the board or the department.

433 (6) DISCLOSURE OF GRADUATE PASSAGE RATE DATA.—

434 (a) For each graduate of the program included in the  
435 calculation of the program's graduate passage rate, the

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436 department shall disclose to the program director, ~~upon his or~~  
437 ~~her written request,~~ the name, examination date, and  
438 determination of whether each graduate passed or failed the  
439 National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensing  
440 Examination, if such information is provided to the department  
441 by the contract testing service of the National Council of State  
442 Boards of Nursing. The department shall disclose to the program  
443 director the average passage rate for graduates from its program  
444 ~~written request must specify the calendar years for which the~~  
445 ~~information is requested.~~

446 (b) A program director to whom confidential information  
447 exempt from public disclosure pursuant to s. 456.014 is  
448 disclosed under this subsection must maintain the  
449 confidentiality of the information and is subject to the same  
450 penalties provided in s. 456.082 for department employees who  
451 unlawfully disclose confidential information.

452 (c) The program director is responsible for ensuring that  
453 the graduate average passage rate, as reported by the  
454 department, is posted on the program's website.

455 (8) RULEMAKING.—The board does not have rulemaking  
456 authority to administer this section, except that the board  
457 shall adopt rules that prescribe the format for submitting  
458 program applications under subsection (1) and annual reports  
459 under subsection (3), to implement graduate nursing  
460 preceptorships as established in paragraph (1)(k), to enforce  
461 and administer subsection (5), and to administer the  
462 documentation of the accreditation of nursing education programs  
463 under subsection (11). The board may adopt rules relating to the  
464 nursing curriculum, including rules relating to the uses and



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limitations of simulation technology, ~~and rules relating to the~~  
~~criteria to qualify for an extension of time to meet the~~  
~~accreditation requirements under paragraph (11)(f).~~ The board  
may not impose any condition or requirement on an educational  
institution submitting a program application, an approved  
program, or an accredited program, except as expressly provided  
in this section.

(11) ACCREDITATION REQUIRED.—

~~(f) An approved nursing education program may, no sooner~~  
~~than 90 days before the deadline for meeting the accreditation~~  
~~requirements of this subsection, apply to the board for an~~  
~~extension of the accreditation deadline for a period which does~~  
~~not exceed 2 years. An additional extension may not be granted.~~  
~~In order to be eligible for the extension, the approved program~~  
~~must establish that it has a graduate passage rate of 60 percent~~  
~~or higher on the National Council of State Boards of Nursing~~  
~~Licensing Examination for the most recent calendar year and must~~  
~~meet a majority of the board's additional criteria, including,~~  
~~but not limited to, all of the following:~~

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

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

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

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

~~5. The program is not currently in its second year of~~

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~~probationary status under subsection (5).~~

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

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.