

CS/CS/HB 1337 — Nursing Education Programs

by Health Care Appropriations Committee; State Universities and Private Colleges Policy Committee; Rep. Grimsley and others (CS/SB 2530 by Health and Human Services Appropriation Committee; Senators Alexander and Crist)

The bill continues to streamline the Florida Board of Nursing (BON) education program approval process and regulatory process, that was substantially restructured in 2009. The bill provided that a nursing education program that is accredited by one of two specialized accrediting agencies that are recognized by the United States Secretary of Education to accredit nursing education program is not subject to regulation by the BON, as long as the program maintains its accredited status.

The bill makes other changes to the current nursing education approval process to:

- Clarify that the BON must approve or deny a nursing education program application within 90 days after the receipt of a *complete* application;
- Provide that the graduate passage rate on the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX), which must be achieved by approved programs, is no lower than 10 percentage points less than the national average passing rate;
- Clarify that the requirements for NCLEX graduate passage rates, as adopted by the Legislature last year for approved programs, should only be applied prospectively beginning with the 2010 calendar year;
- Eliminate probation as a penalty if an approved program fails to submit an annual report; and
- Authorize a nursing education program director to receive information on the NCLEX exam date and pass/fail scores for the program's graduates included in the program's graduate passage rate.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2010.

Vote: Senate 33-0; House 113-0