



Rep. Terra Costa Howard

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LRB104 06840 AAS 24420 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 1807

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend House Bill 1807 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 5. The Nurse Practice Act is amended by changing
5 Sections 60-5 and 60-10 as follows:

6 (225 ILCS 65/60-5)

7 (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2028)

8 Sec. 60-5. Registered professional nursing education
9 programs. ~~RN education program requirements; out of State~~
10 ~~programs.~~

11 (a) The purpose of nursing education rules and regulations
12 is to ensure that graduates of nursing education programs are
13 prepared for safe and effective nursing practice. Early
14 intervention when standards are not met assists programs in
15 making improvements before warning signs are evident and
16 before sanctions are necessary. The purpose of Board and

1 Department approval of a registered professional nursing
2 education program is to do the following:

3 (1) promote the safe practice of nursing by
4 implementing standards for individuals seeking licensure
5 as registered nurses;

6 (2) grant regulatory recognition to nursing education
7 programs that the Board and the Department determine have
8 met established standards;

9 (3) ensure graduates meet the educational and legal
10 requirements for the level of licensure that the graduates
11 are seeking;

12 (4) facilitate graduates' endorsement to other states,
13 territories, and countries as appropriate; and

14 (5) provide the public and prospective students with a
15 published list of approved nursing programs that meet the
16 standards established by law and the Board's rules.

17 (b) To establish a new registered professional nursing
18 education program, the proposed program's administrator must
19 notify the Department of the intention to establish a new
20 program. The Department may approve the proposed program after
21 a recommendation from the Board, upon the successful
22 completion of the following process and a site visit:

23 (1) The proposed program must provide a feasibility
24 study that includes the following information to the
25 Board:

26 (A) governing institution approval and ongoing

1 support;

2 (B) evidence of adequate institutional financial
3 support that can be provided to the program on an
4 ongoing basis;

5 (C) availability of educational resources, such as
6 human resources, physical resources (including access
7 to a library), clinical resources, and technical
8 learning resources;

9 (D) evidence of the institution meeting the Board
10 of Higher Education's requirements and the
11 accreditation requirements by a national accrediting
12 body recognized by the United States Department of
13 Education;

14 (E) evidence of the nursing program actively
15 seeking pre-accreditation or candidate accreditation
16 from a national accrediting body for nursing education
17 recognized by the United States Department of
18 Education;

19 (F) evidence of adequate numbers of clinical
20 partnerships;

21 (G) availability of qualified faculty members and
22 employment of a program director whose qualifications
23 must meet the requirements set forth by the
24 Department; and

25 (H) a proposed timeline for initiating the
26 program.

1 (2) After the feasibility study has been submitted to
2 the Department, the proposed program must complete the
3 following program components and processes and submit
4 verification of completion to the Department:

5 (A) development of a comprehensive program
6 curriculum;

7 (B) submission of the program's ongoing systematic
8 evaluation plan;

9 (C) establishment of policies for student
10 admission, progression, retention, and graduation; and

11 (D) establishment of policies and strategies to
12 address students' needs, including those with
13 documented disabilities.

14 (c) Nursing education rules must be based on
15 evidence-based criteria and used to monitor the quality of a
16 registered professional nursing education program. All
17 registered professional nursing education programs must meet
18 the following requirements:

19 (1) The program must have written and published
20 criteria for student admission, progression, and
21 performance.

22 (2) The written policies and procedures of the program
23 must be reviewed and approved by the program's identified
24 governing body and be readily accessible according to
25 accreditation standards.

26 (3) The program must have policies in place that hold

1 students responsible for professional behavior, including
2 honesty and integrity, as outlined in the program's
3 policies or student handbook. Such handbook or policies
4 should be made available to the Department upon request.

5 (4) The administrator of the program must (i) hold a
6 graduate degree in nursing, (ii) have a minimum of 2 years
7 of clinical nursing and nursing education experience,
8 (iii) hold a current, active, and unencumbered license as
9 a registered nurse in this State, (iv) have institutional
10 authority and administrative responsibility over the
11 program, and (v) be responsible for submitting the
12 Department's annual report, consisting of aggregate
13 program data as determined by the Board, by the provided
14 deadline.

15 (d) Faculty members of a registered professional nursing
16 education program must meet the following criteria:

17 (1) possess the requisite academic and experiential
18 qualifications; and

19 (2) hold either:

20 (A) a graduate degree in nursing with at least 2
21 years of practical experience, if the faculty member
22 teaches didactic nursing courses; or

23 (B) a current, active, and unencumbered license as
24 a registered nurse in this State and a graduate degree
25 in nursing, if the faculty member teaches clinical,
26 lab, or simulation experience courses.

1 A faculty member who does not hold a graduate degree in
2 nursing, but who holds a bachelor's degree in nursing, may
3 teach didactic nursing, clinical, lab, or simulation
4 experience courses if the faculty member obtains a waiver from
5 the Division of Professional Regulation. A faculty member who
6 does not meet the requirements of paragraph (2) of this
7 subsection but who obtains a waiver to teach shall be
8 supervised by a faculty member with a graduate degree in
9 nursing. No more than 20% of a program's faculty may have a
10 waiver at one time.

11 (e) A registered professional nursing program must meet
12 the following training and development requirements:

13 (1) Faculty members must be oriented in accordance
14 with institutional policies and procedures. Orientation
15 may include basic instruction in teaching, adult learning
16 principles, learning assessment, curriculum development,
17 and other subjects included as appropriate to meet the
18 diverse needs of students and promote student learning and
19 success.

20 (2) Newly hired faculty members must be mentored by
21 experientially prepared colleagues.

22 (3) Faculty members must participate in ongoing
23 professional development.

24 (4) The program must provide access to faculty
25 development activities.

26 (f) To maintain enrollment in a registered professional

1 nursing program, students must meet health standards, criminal
2 background requirements, and other compliance standards as
3 required by the program's clinical affiliation agreements.

4 (g) The curriculum of a registered professional nursing
5 program must meet the following requirements:

6 (1) be built on a foundation of biological, physical,
7 social, and behavioral sciences;

8 (2) have a written systematic evaluation plan in
9 place;

10 (3) have didactic and clinical content that prepares
11 graduates to practice safely, utilize the nursing process
12 in a variety of clinical settings, and meet the holistic
13 needs of diverse individuals, families, communities, and
14 populations across the life span;

15 (4) combined with clinical experiences, prepare the
16 graduate to take the NCLEX-RN exam for licensure;

17 (5) have strategies that are in place to remediate
18 errors and near-misses in the clinical setting;

19 (6) meet the standards of the program's accrediting
20 body;

21 (7) have clinical affiliation agreements in place for
22 clinical experiences;

23 (8) have distance education methods that are
24 consistent with the accreditation and regulatory
25 standards; and

26 (9) provide direct care clinical experiences with

1 patients, as defined by accrediting and regulatory bodies.

2 (h) A professional nursing education program shall not use
3 simulation as a substitute for traditional clinical
4 experiences for more than 25% of a course's total clinical
5 hours. Programs may seek an exception to this subsection from
6 the Board and must follow the requirements set forth in the
7 "Guidelines for the Use of Simulation by Prelicensure Nursing
8 Programs" as published on the Department's website.

9 (h-5) The program must develop criteria to evaluate the
10 simulation activities and allow students to evaluate the
11 simulation experience on an ongoing basis.

12 (i) The program's resources must be sufficient to support
13 the program's needs to meet its mission, goals, and outcomes.
14 The program must provide accessibility resources to all
15 students, including those enrolled in distance education, and
16 institutional resources that assist students with academic and
17 financial challenges.

18 (j) A registered professional nursing program must be
19 accredited by a national accrediting body recognized by the
20 United States Department of Education. If the program has its
21 accreditation revoked, the program must submit a copy of the
22 notice of revocation from the accrediting body to the Board
23 within 30 days after receipt.

24 (k) If the Department obtains evidence at any time that a
25 registered professional nursing program does not comply with
26 this Act, the Department may perform an unannounced site

1 visit. The Department shall have the discretion to determine
2 if a complaint is unwarranted and not have to conduct a site
3 visit. Such evidence may include, but is not limited to, the
4 following:

5 (1) complaints from students, faculty, or clinical
6 agencies;

7 (2) program administrator turnover of more than 3
8 administrators in 5 years, excluding interim appointments;

9 (3) unexplained nursing faculty turnover or cuts in
10 the number of nursing faculty;

11 (4) a pattern of NCLEX pass rates less than 75%, as
12 defined by rule; and

13 (5) loss of national programmatic accreditation.

14 The Department has the discretion to determine if a
15 complaint is unwarranted and if a site visit must be
16 conducted.

17 ~~(a) All registered professional nurse education programs~~
18 ~~must be reviewed by the Board and approved by the Department~~
19 ~~before the successful completion of such a program may be~~
20 ~~applied toward meeting the requirements for registered~~
21 ~~professional nurse licensure under this Act. Any program~~
22 ~~changing the level of educational preparation or the~~
23 ~~relationship with or to the parent institution or establishing~~
24 ~~an extension of an existing program must request a review by~~
25 ~~the Board and approval by the Department. The Board shall~~
26 ~~review and make a recommendation for the approval or~~

1 ~~disapproval of a program by the Department based on the~~
2 ~~following criteria:~~

3 ~~(1) a feasibility study that describes the need for~~
4 ~~the program and the facilities used, the potential of the~~
5 ~~program to recruit faculty and students, financial support~~
6 ~~for the program, and other criteria, as established by~~
7 ~~rule;~~

8 ~~(2) program curriculum that meets all State~~
9 ~~requirements;~~

10 ~~(2.5) measurement of program effectiveness based on a~~
11 ~~passage rate of all graduates over the 3 most recent~~
12 ~~calendar years without reference to first-time test~~
13 ~~takers;~~

14 ~~(3) the administration of the program by a Nurse~~
15 ~~Administrator and the involvement of a Nurse Administrator~~
16 ~~in the development of the program;~~

17 ~~(4) the occurrence of a site visit prior to approval;~~
18 ~~and~~

19 ~~(5) beginning December 31, 2022, obtaining and~~
20 ~~maintaining programmatic accreditation by a national~~
21 ~~accrediting body for nursing education recognized by the~~
22 ~~United States Department of Education and approved by the~~
23 ~~Department.~~

24 ~~The Department and Board of Nursing shall be notified~~
25 ~~within 30 days if the program loses its accreditation. The~~
26 ~~Department may adopt rules regarding a warning process and~~

1 ~~reaccreditation.~~

2 ~~(b) In order to obtain initial Department approval and to~~
3 ~~maintain Department approval, a registered professional~~
4 ~~nursing program must meet all of the following requirements:~~

5 ~~(1) The institution responsible for conducting the~~
6 ~~program and the Nurse Administrator must ensure that~~
7 ~~individual faculty members are academically and~~
8 ~~professionally competent.~~

9 ~~(2) The program curriculum must contain all applicable~~
10 ~~requirements established by rule, including both theory~~
11 ~~and clinical components.~~

12 ~~(3) The passage rates of the program's graduating~~
13 ~~classes on the State-approved licensure exam must be~~
14 ~~deemed satisfactory by the Department.~~

15 ~~(c) Program site visits to an institution conducting or~~
16 ~~hosting a professional nursing program may be made at the~~
17 ~~discretion of the Nursing Coordinator or upon recommendation~~
18 ~~of the Board. Full routine site visits may be conducted by the~~
19 ~~Department for periodic evaluation. Such visits shall be used~~
20 ~~to determine compliance with this Act. Full routine site~~
21 ~~visits must be announced and may be waived at the discretion of~~
22 ~~the Department if the program maintains accreditation with an~~
23 ~~accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of~~
24 ~~Education and approved by the Department.~~

25 ~~(d) Any institution conducting a registered professional~~
26 ~~nursing program that wishes to discontinue the program must do~~

1 ~~each of the following:~~

2 ~~(1) Notify the Department, in writing, of its intent~~
3 ~~to discontinue the program.~~

4 ~~(2) Continue to meet the requirements of this Act and~~
5 ~~the rules adopted thereunder until the official date of~~
6 ~~termination of the program.~~

7 ~~(3) Notify the Department of the date on which the~~
8 ~~last student shall graduate from the program and the~~
9 ~~program shall terminate.~~

10 ~~(4) Assist remaining students in the continuation of~~
11 ~~their education in the event of program termination prior~~
12 ~~to the graduation of the program's final student.~~

13 ~~(5) Upon the closure of the program, notify the~~
14 ~~Department, in writing, of the location of student and~~
15 ~~graduate records' storage.~~

16 (1) ~~(e)~~ Out-of-State registered professional nursing
17 education programs planning to offer clinical practice
18 experiences in this State must meet the requirements set forth
19 in this Section and must meet the clinical and faculty
20 requirements for institutions outside of this State, as
21 established by rule. The institution responsible for
22 conducting an out-of-State registered professional nursing
23 education program and the administrator of the program shall
24 be responsible for ensuring that the individual faculty and
25 preceptors overseeing the clinical experience are academically
26 and professionally competent.

1 (m) To operate under this Act, a registered professional
2 nursing education program must maintain approval by the
3 Department in accordance with the following:

4 (1) A registered professional nursing education
5 program must complete and submit an annual evaluation
6 report to the Department and maintain programmatic
7 accreditation by a national accrediting body for nursing
8 education recognized by the United States Department of
9 Education.

10 (2) The Board and the Department shall review and
11 analyze various sources of information regarding program
12 performance before granting annual approval, including,
13 but not limited to:

14 (A) previous Board survey visits and reports;

15 (B) annual report data;

16 (C) evidence of accreditation by a national
17 accrediting body for nursing education recognized by
18 the United States Department of Education;

19 (D) Board-recognized national accreditation
20 visits, reports, and other pertinent national
21 accreditation documents provided by the program; and

22 (E) results of ongoing programmatic evaluation.

23 (n) The Department shall make the policies and procedures
24 related to probationary status transparent, and related forms
25 shall be readily available to program administrators on the
26 Department's website.

1 (o) The Department may, without a hearing, rescind the
2 license of an individual who has been identified by a federal
3 investigation as presenting illegitimate educational
4 credentials that have been flagged by the National Council of
5 State Boards of Nursing. If the Department rescinds the
6 license of an individual under this subsection (o), the
7 Department shall notify the licensee of the rescission in
8 accordance with the service requirements of the appropriate
9 jurisdiction. A licensee may request a review of the
10 rescission by the Board within 30 days after being served a
11 notice of rescission. A rescission shall not constitute
12 discipline as provided in Section 70-5 of this Act and shall
13 not be an automatic bar to licensure if the applicant elects to
14 re-apply. Nothing in this subsection (o) shall prevent the
15 Department from considering a rescission during a future
16 regulatory action. The Department may adopt rules to implement
17 this subsection (o).

18 (Source: P.A. 103-533, eff. 1-1-24.)

19 (225 ILCS 65/60-10)

20 (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2028)

21 Sec. 60-10. RN licensure by examination.

22 (a) Each applicant who successfully meets the requirements
23 of this Section is eligible for licensure as a registered
24 professional nurse.

25 (b) An applicant for licensure by examination to practice

1 as a registered professional nurse is eligible for licensure
2 when the following requirements are met:

3 (1) the applicant has submitted a completed written
4 application, on forms provided by the Department, and
5 fees, as established by the Department;

6 (2) the applicant has graduated from a professional
7 nursing education program approved by the Department or
8 has been granted a certificate of completion of
9 pre-licensure requirements from another United States
10 jurisdiction;

11 (3) the applicant has successfully completed a
12 licensure examination approved by the Department;

13 (4) (blank);

14 (5) the applicant has submitted to the criminal
15 history records check required under Section 50-35 of this
16 Act;

17 (6) the applicant has submitted, either to the
18 Department or its designated testing service, a fee
19 covering the cost of providing the examination; failure to
20 appear for the examination on the scheduled date at the
21 time and place specified after the applicant's application
22 for examination has been received and acknowledged by the
23 Department or the designated testing service shall result
24 in the forfeiture of the examination fee; and

25 (7) the applicant has met all other requirements
26 established by the Department by rule.

1 An applicant for licensure by examination may take the
2 Department-approved examination in another jurisdiction.

3 (b-3) An applicant who graduates from a professional
4 nursing program in this State on or after January 1, 2024 (the
5 effective date of Public Act 103-533) ~~this amendatory Act of~~
6 ~~the 103rd General Assembly~~ and does not take the licensure
7 examination within 180 days after his or her degree is
8 conferred by the institution of higher education or fails the
9 licensure examination for a second time shall be required to
10 demonstrate proof of completion of a National Council
11 Licensure Examination preparatory class or a comparable test
12 preparatory program before taking a subsequent licensure
13 examination or the graduate may return to the institution of
14 higher education from which he or she graduated which shall
15 provide remedial educational resources to the graduate at no
16 cost to the graduate. Such an applicant must contact the
17 institution of higher education from which he or she graduated
18 prior to retesting.

19 (b-4) (Blank). ~~All professional nursing programs in~~
20 ~~probationary status on the effective date of this amendatory~~
21 ~~Act of the 103rd General Assembly and subject to a program~~
22 ~~revision plan shall be deemed in good standing for a period of~~
23 ~~3 years beginning on the effective date of this amendatory Act~~
24 ~~of the 103rd General Assembly. Prior to September 1, 2026, no~~
25 ~~professional nursing program shall be placed on probationary~~
26 ~~status for failing to reach a passage rate of less than 75%.~~

1 (b-5) If an applicant for licensure by examination
2 neglects, fails, or refuses to take an examination or fails to
3 pass an examination for a license within 3 years of the date of
4 initial application, the application shall be denied. When an
5 applicant's application is denied due to the failure to pass
6 the examination within the 3-year period, that applicant must
7 undertake an additional course of education as defined by rule
8 prior to submitting a new application for licensure. Any new
9 application must be accompanied by the required fee, evidence
10 of meeting the requirements in force at the time of the new
11 application, and evidence of completion of the additional
12 course of education prescribed by rule.

13 (c) An applicant for licensure by examination shall have
14 one year after the date of notification of the successful
15 completion of the examination to apply to the Department for a
16 license. If an applicant fails to apply within one year, the
17 applicant shall be required to retake and pass the examination
18 unless licensed in another jurisdiction of the United States.

19 (d) An applicant for licensure by examination who passes
20 the Department-approved licensure examination for professional
21 nursing may obtain employment as a license-pending registered
22 nurse and practice under the direction of a registered
23 professional nurse or an advanced practice registered nurse
24 until such time as he or she receives his or her license to
25 practice or until the license is denied. In no instance shall
26 any such applicant practice or be employed in any management

1 capacity. An individual may be employed as a license-pending
2 registered nurse if all of the following criteria are met:

3 (1) He or she has completed and passed the
4 Department-approved licensure exam and presents to the
5 employer the official written notification indicating
6 successful passage of the licensure examination.

7 (2) He or she has completed and submitted to the
8 Department an application for licensure under this Section
9 as a registered professional nurse.

10 (3) He or she has submitted the required licensure
11 fee.

12 (4) He or she has met all other requirements
13 established by rule, including having submitted to a
14 criminal history records check.

15 (e) The privilege to practice as a license-pending
16 registered nurse shall terminate with the occurrence of any of
17 the following:

18 (1) Six months have passed since the official date of
19 passing the licensure exam as inscribed on the formal
20 written notification indicating passage of the exam. The
21 6-month license-pending period may be extended if more
22 time is needed by the Department to process the licensure
23 application.

24 (2) Receipt of the registered professional nurse
25 license from the Department.

26 (3) Notification from the Department that the

1 application for licensure has been refused.

2 (4) A request by the Department that the individual
3 terminate practicing as a license-pending registered nurse
4 until an official decision is made by the Department to
5 grant or deny a registered professional nurse license.

6 (f) (Blank).

7 (g) (Blank).

8 (h) (Blank).

9 (i) (Blank).

10 (j) (Blank).

11 (k) All applicants for registered professional nurse
12 licensure have 3 years after the date of application to
13 complete the application process. If the process has not been
14 completed within 3 years after the date of application, the
15 application shall be denied, the fee forfeited, and the
16 applicant must reapply and meet the requirements in effect at
17 the time of reapplication.

18 (l) All applicants for registered nurse licensure by
19 examination who are graduates of practical nursing educational
20 programs in a country other than the United States and its
21 territories shall have their nursing education credentials
22 evaluated by a Department-approved nursing credentialing
23 evaluation service. No such applicant may be issued a license
24 under this Act unless the applicant's program is deemed by the
25 nursing credentialing evaluation service to be equivalent to a
26 professional nursing education program approved by the

1 Department. An applicant who has graduated from a nursing
2 educational program outside of the United States or its
3 territories and whose first language is not English shall
4 submit evidence of English proficiency, as defined by rule.

5 (m) (Blank).

6 (Source: P.A. 103-533, eff. 1-1-24; 103-686, eff. 1-1-25.)

7 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect on July
8 1, 2026."