

By: Darby

H.B. No. 3078

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of an advisory committee to recommend a uniform pre-nursing curriculum for undergraduate professional nursing programs offered by public institutions of higher education.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 61.0261 to read as follows:

Sec. 61.0261. UNIFORM PRE-NURSING CURRICULUM ADVISORY COMMITTEE. (a) In this section:

(1) "Pre-nursing curriculum" means a curriculum designed to prepare students for enrollment in an undergraduate professional nursing program.

(2) "Undergraduate professional nursing program" means an educational program for preparing students for initial licensure as registered nurses.

(b) The Uniform Pre-Nursing Curriculum Advisory Committee is created to develop and make recommendations on a uniform pre-nursing curriculum for undergraduate professional nursing programs offered by institutions of higher education. The advisory committee consists of at least 16 members as follows:

(1) the commissioner of higher education or the commissioner's designee;

(2) the executive director of the Texas Board of

1 Nursing or the executive director's designee;

2 (3) two representatives of professional nursing
3 associations, appointed by the board; and

4 (4) a representative from the undergraduate
5 professional nursing programs offered by at least 12 institutions
6 of higher education, appointed by the board in accordance with the
7 following:

8 (A) at least three representatives must be from
9 junior colleges;

10 (B) at least three representatives must be from
11 general academic teaching institutions; and

12 (C) at least three representatives must be from
13 health science centers.

14 (c) The members of the advisory committee may not receive
15 compensation for their service.

16 (d) The advisory committee shall assess, as of September 1,
17 2015:

18 (1) the prerequisite courses that are required for
19 each undergraduate professional nursing program in this state; and

20 (2) the ability of a student to use course credit
21 earned at one institution of higher education to qualify for
22 admission to an undergraduate professional nursing program offered
23 by another institution of higher education.

24 (e) The advisory committee shall develop and make
25 recommendations regarding the creation of a uniform pre-nursing
26 curriculum. Recommendations under this section must specify:

27 (1) the prerequisite courses that a student must

1 complete to qualify for admission to each undergraduate
2 professional nursing program offered by an institution of higher
3 education; and

4 (2) the content for the courses under Subdivision (1).

5 (f) Not later than September 1, 2016, the advisory committee
6 shall prepare and submit to the legislature and to each standing
7 legislative committee with primary jurisdiction over higher
8 education a report containing the committee's findings under this
9 section, including the recommended uniform pre-nursing curriculum.

10 (g) This section expires January 1, 2017.

11 SECTION 2. Not later than January 1, 2016, the Texas Higher
12 Education Coordinating Board shall make the appointments to the
13 Uniform Pre-Nursing Curriculum Advisory Committee required under
14 Section 61.0261(b), Education Code, as added by this Act.

15 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
16 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
17 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
18 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
19 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.