

# Florida Department of **EDUCATION**

**Bill Number:** SB1036

**Bill Title:** Nursing Education Programs

**Bill Sponsor:** Senator Grimsley

**Effective Date:** 07/01/2014

**DOE Contact:** Samuel Ferguson

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## **Executive Summary:**

This legislation makes revisions to nursing education standards in Florida. To address the shortage of clinical slots, clinical simulation will become acceptable for up to 50% of clinical training. In an effort to bolster licensure examination passage rates, any graduate of an approved program who fails to take the licensure examination within 6 months of graduation must take and pass an examination preparatory course prior to taking the exam. Approved programs that do not achieve a passage rate within 10% of the national program passage rate will be placed on probation for two years and must establish specific benchmarks to measure progress towards the program passage rate standard. Probation may be extended for an additional year if the program can demonstrate "adequate progress" towards the passage rate standard during the probationary period. Approved programs that are closed, and that have students with at least 12 credits who transfer to other programs licensed by the Commission for independent Education (CIE), will not have their licensure examination scores counted in the program passage rate for the new program. All existing approved nursing programs must be accredited in accordance with s. 464.003, F.S. (receive programmatic accreditation) by July 1, 2019. Any program approved after July 1, 2014 must be accredited in accordance with s. 464.003, F.S. with 5 years of enrolling students, CIE institutions offering nursing programs that are exempt under s. 1005.06(1) (e), F.S. are not subject to this legislation.

### **Section 1. amends s. 464.003, F.S., to:**

- Add "clinical simulation" to the definition of "clinical training;" and
- Add the phrase "...the teaching of general principles of health and wellness to the public and to students other than nursing students" to the definition of "Practice of practical nursing."

### **Section 2. amends s. 464.008, F.S., to:**

- Add language that a graduate from an approved program who does not take the licensure examination within 6 months after graduation must enroll in and successfully complete a board-approved licensure examination preparatory course.

### **Section 3. amends s. 464.013 to**

- Change language to read "up to 30 hours" of biennial continuing education from "not to exceed 30 hours;" and

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- Exempt a nurse, who is certified by a program accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies or the Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification, from continuing education requirements.

## **Section 4. amends 464.019 s. , F.S., to:**

- Add language that the program's nursing major curriculum consists of 50% clinical training in the United States or its possessions or territories for practical nursing, an associate degree in professional nursing, or a professional diploma in nursing education;
- Add language that the program's nursing major curriculum consists of 40% clinical training in the United States or its possessions or territories for a bachelor's degree in professional nursing education;
- Increase the amount of clinical simulation that can be used for clinical training from 25% to 50%;
- Add technical re-wording;
- Delete obsolete language;
- Add language that the licensure examination test takers who must score within 10 percentage points of the average passage rate for United States graduates of comparable degree programs must be first-time test takers and be taking the examination during the same calendar year (as graduation);
- Add language that an approved program must require a graduate who does not take the licensure examination within 6 months after graduation to enroll in and successfully complete a board-approved licensure examination preparatory course pursuant to s. 464.008, F.S.;
- Add language that specific benchmarks to identify progress toward a graduate passage goal must be part of the remediation plan for nursing programs that do not equal or exceed the program graduation passage rate standard;
- Add language that the board may extend the probationary period for an additional year (beyond the original 2 years) for a remediation plan for nursing programs that do not equal or exceed the program's graduation passage rate standard if the program "...demonstrates adequate progress toward the passage rate goal by meeting a majority of the benchmarks established in the remediation plan;"
- Add language that students who have completed at least 12 credits from a program that is terminated because the program's previous graduates did not meet the graduation passage rate standards during the probationary period, and who transfer to another approved program under the direction of the CIE, shall not have their licensure examination scores used in the calculation of the program passage rate at their new school;
- Add language that all existing approved nursing programs with enrolled students must be accredited programs in accordance with s.464.003, F.S., by July 1, 2019;
- Add language that any approved nursing programs with no enrolled students must be accredited programs in accordance with s. 464.003, F.S., within 5 years of enrolling their first students;
- Exempt nursing education programs provided by an institution that is exempted from licensure by the CIE in accordance with s. 1005.06 (1) (e).

## **Section 5. amends s. 456.014, F.S. to**

- Make technical revisions.

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General Implementation Timeline:

The act will take effect July 1, 2014.