

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO §§215.2, 215.3, 215.4, AND 215.6 RELATING TO  
LIMITING THE ROLE OF THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING TO APPROVING  
NURSING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS LEADING TO INITIAL LICENSURE**

**SUMMARY OF REQUEST:**

Consider the proposed response to House Bill 2426 change in the statute which limits the role of the Texas Board of Nursing (BON) to approving only those nursing educational programs which lead to initial licensure.

**HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:**

- One of the key recommendations under Issue 1 of the Sunset Advisory Commission report to the Board of Nurse Examiners dated September 2006 was to limit the Board's role to approving nursing educational programs leading to initial licensure.
- House Bill (HB) 2426 Section 301.157(a) requires that "The Board shall prescribe three programs of study to prepare a person to receive an initial license as a registered nurse under this chapter as follows:
  - (1) a baccalaureate degree program that is conducted by an educational unit in nursing that is a part of a senior college or university and that leads to a baccalaureate degree in nursing;
  - (2) an associate degree program that is conducted by an educational unit in nursing within the structure of a college on a university and that leads to an associate degree in nursing, and
  - (3) a diploma program that is conducted by a single-purpose school, usually under the control of a hospital, and that leads to a diploma in nursing."
- House Bill (HB) 2426 Section 301.157(b) requires that "The board shall:
  - (1) prescribe two programs of study to prepare a person to receive an initial vocational nurse license under this chapter as follows:
    - (A) a program conducted by an educational unit in nursing within the structure of a school, including a college, university, or proprietary schools; and
    - (B) a program conducted by a hospital."
- At the request of several post-licensure professional nursing education programs, the BON currently approves the following five RN to BSN Nursing Education Programs:
  - Angelo State University, San Angelo
  - Southwestern Adventist University, Keene
  - Texas A&M University at Texarkana
  - The University of Houston at Victoria and Sugarland
  - University of Texas at Brownsville & Texas Southmost College, Brownsville
- In addition, the BON currently approves four advanced practice nursing (APN) education programs at their request:
  - Angelo State University, Medical/Surgical Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) Program, San Angelo
  - Patty Hanks Shelton School of Nursing, Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) Program, Abilene
  - Prairie View A&M University Family Nurse Practitioner Program, Houston - voluntarily withdrawing from BON approval, October 2007
  - Texas A&M International University Family Nurse Practitioner Program, Laredo
- These programs initially sought BON approval to ensure that their graduates would be eligible to apply for authorization to practice as advanced practice nurses in Texas.
- Rule 221.3(b)(1) requires that advanced educational programs in the State of Texas shall be accredited by the board or a national accrediting body recognized by the board.
- Most APN programs voluntarily withdraw from BON approval once accredited by a voluntary nursing accrediting body.

- Angelo State University CNS Program is accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC); Patty Hanks Shelton School of Nursing FNP Program is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE); and Prairie View A&M University FNP Program is accredited by both NLNAC and CCNE.
- Prairie View A&M University FNP Program has requested withdrawal from BON approval.

**PROPOSED RULE CHANGES:**

- §215.2 Definitions.

(28) Professional Nursing Educational Programs--~~(A) Pre-licensure nursing education program--an educational entity that offers the courses and learning experiences that prepares graduates who are competent to practice safely and who are eligible to take the NCLEX-RN® examination and often referred to as a pre-licensure nursing program.~~ Types of pre-licensure nursing programs:

~~(B) Post-Licensure nursing education program--an educational unit the purpose of which is to provide mobility options for registered nurses to attain undergraduate academic degrees in nursing. Post-licensure programs may be components of educational units within pre-licensure nursing education programs or independent baccalaureate degree programs for registered nurses as defined in this section.~~

§215.3 Program Development, Expansion, and Closure

(a) New programs.

(1) Proposal to establish a new professional pre-licensure or post-licensure nursing educational program.

- §215.4 Approval.

(2) Full Approval.

~~(B) Post-licensure nursing education programs. Full approval is granted by the Board to a post-licensure nursing education program after one class has completed the program and the program meets the Board's legal and educational requirements. Only programs with full approval status may propose extension programs, grant faculty waivers and petition for faculty waivers.~~

- §215.6 Administration and Organization.

(b) There shall be an organizational chart which demonstrates the relationship of the professional nursing educational program to the governing institution, and indicates lines of responsibility and authority.

**RESULTING ACTIONS:**

- The BON will continue to approve new APN education programs until they hold accreditation from a national nursing accreditation organization recognized by the board. After a program receives national nursing accreditation, the BON will exit from their approval.
- Proposed revisions to Rule 219 *Advanced Nurse Practitioner Program* incorporates this approval process. (See Agenda Item 7.2.)

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

- The motion to approve the proposed amendments to §§215.2, 215.3, 215.4, and 215.6 relating to limiting the role of the Texas Board of Nursing to approving nursing educational programs to initial licensure will be included as part of Agenda Item 7.10.13.
- Move to notify the five BON approved RN to BSN and the advanced practice nursing education programs accredited by a national nursing accreditation organization that the BON no longer has statutory authority to continue approving these post-licensure programs and will not list these programs in the list of BON approved nursing education programs in the future, as indicated in the attached letter (See Attachment).

DRAFT

October 22, 2007

Director  
Program

Dear Director:

The Board of Nursing completed its Sunset review process this past legislative session. The Sunset Commission recommended that the Board limit its role to approving only nursing education programs that lead to **initial** licensure as a professional or vocational nurse. The rationale was that this would bring the Board more in line with its role to ensure that nurses are minimally competent to enter practice.

With the passage of House Bill 2426 during the past legislative session, the Nursing Practice Act now only provides for three programs of study available to prepare a person to receive an initial license as a registered nurse, i.e., baccalaureate degree programs, associate degree programs, and diploma programs. Therefore, by action of the Board of Nursing at its October 18-19, 2007 meeting, the Texas Board of Nursing will no longer approve RN to BSN Programs or Advanced Practice Nursing Education Programs that hold national nursing accreditation nor include these programs on the list of approved nursing education programs. This change is effective October 18, 2007.

The Texas Board of Nursing will continue to approve new advanced practice nursing education programs until the programs receive accreditation from a national nursing accreditation agency approved by the Board.

Board staff will be available to assist your program by providing information or other services upon request. Best wishes for your continuing success.

Sincerely,

Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP  
President

copy:   respective university president  
          respective accrediting agencies