

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO §§215.3 AND 215.4 RELATING TO
DEGREE REQUIREMENTS FOR DIPLOMA NURSING PROGRAMS BY 2015**

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Consider the proposed amendments to §§215.3 and 215.4 in response to House Bill 2426 relating to degree requirements for diploma nursing education programs by December 31, 2014.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

- House Bill (HB) 2426 Section 301.157 (a-1) requires that "A diploma program of study in this date that leads to an initial license as a registered nurse under this chapter and that is completed on or after December 31, 2014, must entitle a student to receive a degree on the student's successful completion of a degree program of a public or private institution of higher education by an agency recognized by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.
- Amendments to §§215.3 and 215.4 below reflect statutory changes and operationalize the intent of the statute.

PROPOSED RULE CHANGES:

- §215.3 Program Development, Expansion and Closure
 - (a) New programs.
 - (1) (G) A proposal for a new diploma nursing educational program must include a written plan addressing the legislative mandate that all nursing diploma programs in Texas must have a process in place by 2015 to ensure that their graduates are entitled to receive a degree from a public or private institution of higher education accredited by an agency recognized by the THECB and at a minimum, entitle a graduate of the diploma program to receive an associate degree in nursing.
- §215.4 Approval
 - (a) (6) A diploma program of study in Texas that leads to an initial license as a registered nurse under this chapter must have a process in place by 2015 to ensure that their graduates are entitled to receive a degree from a public or private institution of higher education accredited by an agency recognized by the THECB. At a minimum, a graduate of a diploma program will be entitled to receive an associate degree in nursing.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

The motion to approve the proposed amendments to §§215.3 and 215.4 relating to degree requirements for diploma nursing educational programs by 2015 will be included as part of Agenda Item 7.10.13.