

## HB1807 DFPR – NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM

Sponsors: Senator Cervantes and Leader Koehler, and Chris Balkema



### Proposed Changes to Illinois Nurse Practice Act - Sections 60-5 and 60-10

#### 1. Update and Standardization:

- **Objective:** Harmonize the current regulatory framework with the NCSBN model to enhance the approval and continuous evaluation of Registered Professional Nursing Education programs.
- **Benefits:** Ensures consistency in nursing education standards across state lines, promoting mobility and recognition of Illinois RN licenses nationally.

#### 2. Evidence-Based Framework:

- **Implementation:** Incorporate evidence-based criteria to guide the evaluation and continuous approval processes for nursing education programs.
- **Advantage:** Aids in maintaining high educational standards and adapting to emerging best practices and educational advancements.

#### 3. Enhanced Transparency:

- **Method:** Clear guidelines and criteria for program approval, renewal, and sanctions will be publicly accessible.
- **Result:** Builds trust among stakeholders by ensuring decisions are made based on documented standards and factual evidence.

#### 4. Programmatic Accreditation:

- **Requirement:** Since Dec 31, 2022, all RN education programs must obtain and maintain accreditation from a recognized national nursing accrediting body.
- **Impact:** Elevates the quality of nursing education, aligning it with national benchmarks and ensuring graduates are well-prepared for professional practice.

#### 5. Continued Compliance and Monitoring:

- **Procedure:** Regular site visits and reviews, with specific focus on programs that show signs of non-compliance or those undergoing significant administrative changes.
- **Goal:** Early identification and correction of potential deficiencies, maintaining the integrity and reputation of nursing education in Illinois.

#### 6. Support for Programs and Graduates:

- **Support Measures:** Provide clear paths for remediation and support for programs facing challenges in meeting standards, ensuring that educational outcomes are not compromised.
- **Graduate Assistance:** Outline procedures for graduates from programs facing closure or loss of accreditation, including options for completing their education.

#### 7. Public and Professional Engagement:

- **Communication:** Regular updates and engagement with the nursing community about changes and their implications.
- **Inclusion:** Solicit feedback from educators, administrators, and the public to inform ongoing regulatory adjustments.

#### Conclusion

- These changes aim to position Illinois at the forefront of nursing education excellence, enhancing the readiness and capability of nurses entering the workforce. This alignment not only supports the professional development of nurses but also ensures high-quality patient care across the state.

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