
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO REGISTERED NURSES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that a foreign nursing
2 school graduate may obtain a license to practice as a registered
3 nurse in Hawaii either by examination or by endorsement. A
4 foreign nursing school graduate may obtain a license by
5 endorsement if the applicant already possesses an unencumbered
6 license as a registered nurse in another country and, in the
7 opinion of the board of nursing, meets the qualifications
8 required of registered nurses in Hawaii at the time of
9 graduation. If a foreign nursing school graduate does not
10 already possess a registered nurse license in another country,
11 the applicant may obtain a Hawaii license by examination by
12 passing the National Council Licensure Examination and by
13 complying with applicable requirements of state law and board of
14 nursing rules that regulate nursing.

15 Section 16-89-8(c), Hawaii Administrative Rules, requires
16 that a school transcript of a foreign nursing school graduate
17 applying for a license by examination be evaluated by a
18 professional educational credential evaluator recognized by the



1 board and the applicant must arrange to have the evaluator send
2 a report directly to the board. The Commission on Graduates of
3 Foreign Nursing Schools fulfills this credential evaluation
4 function by either issuing a certification through its
5 international certification program at a cost of \$418, or by
6 issuing a full education course-by-course report at a cost of
7 \$378.

8 The international certification program is composed of
9 three parts:

- 10 (1) A credentials review;
- 11 (2) The international qualifying examination; and
- 12 (3) An English proficiency examination.

13 The legislature further finds that not all states require
14 foreign nursing school graduates to undergo these additional
15 procedures to be licensed to practice as registered nurses. For
16 example, California only requires a foreign nursing school
17 graduate to send a document known as the "Breakdown of
18 Educational Program for International Nursing Programs" form to
19 the applicant's school with a request for transcript. Hawaii's
20 rules already require a foreign nursing school graduate to
21 provide a student final record or official transcript sent
22 directly from the applicant's school to the board of nursing.



1 The purpose of this Act is to require the board of nursing
2 to adopt rules to remove the requirement for a foreign nursing
3 school graduate to furnish either a written certification or a
4 full education course-by-course report as a condition to take
5 the licensing examination to obtain a license to practice as a
6 registered nurse in Hawaii.

7 SECTION 2. Section 457-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
8 amended by amending subsection (f) to read as follows:

9 "(f) Applicants applying for a license to practice as a
10 registered nurse by examination shall submit to the board proof
11 of eligibility. Applicants shall be eligible to apply for a
12 license by examination if they have:

13 (1) Graduated from a registered nursing program at an
14 educational institution in the United States or any
15 territory or possession under the jurisdiction of the
16 United States and are qualified as determined by the
17 board through rules adopted pursuant to chapter 91;

18 (2) Graduated from a registered nursing program at an
19 educational institution in a foreign jurisdiction [~~and~~
20 ~~have had their transcripts evaluated by professional~~
21 ~~evaluators designated by the board]~~ and are considered



1 qualified as determined by the board through rules
2 adopted pursuant to chapter 91; or
3 (3) Graduated with a bachelor's degree and satisfactorily
4 completed the pre-licensure portion of a master's
5 entry program in nursing at an accredited school of
6 nursing in the United States or any territory or
7 possession under the jurisdiction of the United States
8 that is recognized by the board or other state boards
9 of nursing and are qualified as determined by the
10 board."

11 SECTION 3. The board of nursing shall adopt rules in
12 accordance with chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to require
13 a graduate of a foreign nursing school applying for a license to
14 practice as a registered nurse in Hawaii to arrange for the
15 applicant's school to send to the board of nursing the
16 "Breakdown of Educational Program for International Nursing
17 Programs" form along with a certified school transcript;
18 provided that if the transcript is not in English, a certified
19 English translation shall also be submitted.

20 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
21 and stricken.

22 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

Registered Nurses; Foreign Graduates; Licensure Requirements

Description:

Removes, for a foreign nursing school graduate applying for licensure by examination for registered nurses in Hawaii, the requirement to obtain certification from the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools. Requires the Board of Nursing to adopt rules requiring submission of the Breakdown of Educational Program for International Nursing Programs form and a certified school transcript. (HB811 HD1)

