

Proposed Amendment to § 217.5(a)(4), Temporary License and Endorsement, Regarding Verification of Licensure for Temporary Licensure and Endorsements

Summary of Request: The Staff requests that the Board propose amendments to the rule applicable to temporary licenses and endorsements which would provide consistency with § 217.4 (Requirements for Initial Licensure by Examination for Nurses Who Graduate from Nursing Education Programs Outside of United States' Jurisdiction).

Background: Summary of Request: The Staff requests that the board broaden the acceptable verification organizations and availability of organizations that can provide credential evaluation services (CES) of foreign-educated nurses to provide consistency with the existing rule pertaining to graduates of nursing programs outside of the United States' jurisdiction which is contained in section 217.4. The board originally approved the addition of these additional credentialing services for foreign-educated nurses in the January 2005 board meeting.

The pertinent subsections of rule 217.4 (Requirements for Initial Licensure by Examination for Nurses Who Graduate from Nursing Education Programs Outside of United States' Jurisdiction) are 217.4(a)(1)(B) and 217.4(a)(2) as follows:

(a) Nurse applicants for initial licensure applying under this section.

(1) A licensed vocational nurse applicant must:

(B) have successfully completed an approved program for educating vocational/practical (second level general nurses) nurses or curriculum content comparable to the Texas curriculum requirements for graduates of approved vocational nursing education programs by providing a Credential Evaluation Service Full Education Course-by-Course Report from the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS), Educational Records Evaluation Service (ERES), or the International Education Research Foundation (IERF); and

(2) A registered nurse applicant must provide a Credential Evaluation Service Full Education Course-by-Course Report from the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS), Educational Records Evaluation Service (ERES), or the International Education Research Foundation (IERF) and an English proficiency test acceptable to the Board, or the equivalent which verifies that the applicant:

Background: Prior to April 2005, the Texas Board had historically used only the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS), but the waiting period for the credentialing services began to take longer over time. In order to provide equal service and quicker time periods for processing, the Board approved the addition of these two organizations for the provision of credentialing service for nurses educated outside U.S. jurisdictions -- Educational Records Evaluation Service (ERES) and the International Education Research Foundation (IERF). To provide consistency within the rules, the requirements in § 217.5 need to be updated to reflect the requirements of § 217.4.

Staff Recommendation: Move to propose an amendment to 22 Texas Administrative Code section 217.5(a)(4) in the *Texas Register* for a 30-day comment period, and if no substantive or negative comments are received during the comment period, move to adopt the amendments as proposed.

§ 217.5. Temporary License and Endorsement.

(a) The requirements to obtain a non-renewable temporary license which is valid for 120 days, or a permanent license for endorsement are as follows:

(1) - (3) No change.

(4) For an applicant who has graduated from a nursing education program outside of the United States or National Council jurisdictions--verification of LVN licensure as required in §217.4(a)(1) or verification of RN licensure must be submitted from their country of education or as evidenced

in a Credential Evaluation Service (CES) Full Education Course-by-Course Report from the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS), Educational Records Evaluation Service (ERES), or the International Education Research Foundation (IERF, evidence of completion of CGFNS requirements; as well as meeting all other requirements in paragraphs (2)-(3) of this subsection.

(5) - (7) No change.

(b) - (f) No change.