

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO §214.4 AND §215.4 RELATING TO SELECTION OF NATIONAL NURSING ACCREDITING AGENCIES BY THE BOARD

### SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Consider the proposed amendments to §214.4 and §215.4 in response to House Bill 2426 change in the statute relating to the selection of national nursing accrediting agencies by the Board to accredit schools of nursing and educational programs.

### HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

- House Bill (HB) 2426 Section 301.157(b)(5) requires that “The board shall select one or more national nursing accrediting agencies, recognized by the United States Department of Education and determined by the board to have acceptable standards, to accredit schools of nursing and education programs.”
- Proposed amendments to §214.4 and §215.4 below reflect statutory changes and operationalize the intent of the statute.

### PROPOSED RULE CHANGES TO §214.4:

- §214.4 Approval.
  - (c)(4) The Texas Board of Nursing will select one or more national nursing accrediting agencies, recognized by the United States Department of Education and determined by the Board to have standards equivalent to the Board’s ongoing approval standards.
  - (A) The Texas Board of Nursing will periodically review the standards of the national nursing accrediting agencies following revisions of accreditation standards or revisions in Board requirements for validation of continuing equivalency.
  - (B) The Texas Board of Nursing will deny or withdraw approval from a school of nursing or educational program that fails to:
    - (i) meet the prescribed course of study or other standard under which it sought approval by the Board.
    - (ii) meet or maintain accreditation with the national nursing accrediting agency selected by the Board under which it was approved or sought approval by the Board.
    - (iii) fails to maintain the approval of the state board of nursing of another state that the Board has determined has standards that are substantially equivalent to the Board’s standards under which it was approved.
  - (C) A school of nursing or educational program is considered approved by the Board and exempt from Board rules that require ongoing approval if the program:
    - (i) is accredited and maintains accreditation through approved national nursing accrediting agency that have been determined by the Board to have equal standards; and
    - (ii) maintains an acceptable pass rate, as determined by the Board, on the applicable licensing exam.
  - (D) A school of nursing or educational program that fails to meet or maintain an acceptable pass rate, as determined by the Board, on applicable licensing examinations is subject to review by the Board.
  - (E) A school of nursing or educational program that does not maintain accreditation is subject to review by the Board.
  - (F) The Board may assist the school or program in its effort to achieve compliance with the Board’s standards
  - (G) A school or program from which approval has been withdrawn may reapply for approval.

(H) A school of nursing or educational program accredited by an agency recognized by the Board shall:

(i) provide the board with copies of any reports submitted to or received from the national nursing accrediting agency selected by the Board within three (3) months of receipt of official reports;

(ii) notify the Board of any change in accreditation status within two (2) weeks following receipt of official notification letter; and

(iii) provide other information required by the Board as necessary to evaluate and establish nursing education and workforce policy in this state.

**PROPOSED RULE CHANGES TO §215.4:**

• §215.4 Approval.

(c)(4) The Texas Board of Nursing will select one or more national nursing accrediting agencies, recognized by the United States Department of Education and determined by the Board to have standards *equivalent* to the Board's ongoing approval standards.

(A) The Texas Board of Nursing will periodically review the standards of the national nursing accrediting agencies following revisions of accreditation standards or revisions in Board requirements for validation of continuing equivalency.

(B) The Texas Board of Nursing will deny or withdraw approval from a school of nursing or educational program that fails to:

(i) meet the prescribed course of study or other standard under which it sought approval by the Board.

(ii) meet or maintain accreditation with the national nursing accrediting agency selected by the Board under which it was approved or sought approval by the Board.

(iii) maintain the approval of the state board of nursing of another state that the Board has determined has standards that are substantially equivalent to the Board's standards under which it was approved.

(C) A school of nursing or educational program is considered approved by the Board and exempt from Board rules that require ongoing approval if the program:

(i) is accredited and maintains accreditation through approved national nursing accrediting agency that have been determined by the Board to have equal standards; and

(ii) maintains an acceptable pass rate, as determined by the Board, on the applicable licensing exam.

(D) A school of nursing or educational program that fails to meet or maintain an acceptable pass rate, as determined by the Board, on applicable licensing examinations is subject to review by the Board.

(E) A school of nursing or educational program that does not maintain accreditation is subject to review by the Board.

(F) The Board may assist the school or program in its effort to achieve compliance with the Board's standards

(G) A school or program from which approval has been withdrawn may reapply for approval.

(H) A school of nursing or educational program accredited by an agency recognized by the Board shall:

(i) provide the board with copies of any reports submitted to or received from the national nursing accrediting agency selected by the Board within three (3) months of receipt of official reports;

(ii) notify the Board of any change in accreditation status within two (2) weeks following receipt of official notification letter; and

(C) provide other information required by the Board as necessary to evaluate and establish nursing education and workforce policy in this state.

**ACTIONS TO DATE:**

- Board staff held conference calls with the Executive Officers of the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) and the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) on June 6, 2007 and June 27, 2007 respectively to discuss the possibility of comparing BON approval standards with their accreditation standards.
- Board staff developed a matrix (crosswalk) to facilitate a comparison of Rule 214 and 215 and other BON documents with the accreditation criteria and evidences required of programs seeking accreditation.
- The respective crosswalks were mailed to both organizations on July 9, 2007 with a request for return by August 15, 2007.
- An extensive review of the crosswalk was received from NLNAC on August 27, 2007.
- To date the requested information has been received in part from CCNE and the remaining information will be forthcoming.
- After a comparison between accreditation standards and BON standards is complete, Board staff will conduct another conference call with each accreditation agency to verify comparative data.
- Board staff anticipate that either
  - accreditation standards from the accrediting organizations will satisfy standards in board rules and, therefore, accredited programs will be exempt from board rules except for pass rates; or
  - accreditation standards from the accrediting organizations will not satisfy all standards in board rules which would necessitate requiring accredited programs to comply with selected rules but providing an exemption from others.

**PROS AND CONS:****Pros-**

- Board staff and accreditation agency officers are gaining a better understanding of the respective standards and criteria for accreditation/approval of programs.

**Cons-**

- Accreditation standards and Board requirements change frequently which will necessitate monitoring changes and conducting reviews.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

- The motion to approve the proposed amendments to §214.4 relating to the selection of national nursing accrediting agencies by the Board will be included as part of Agenda Item 7.10.12.
- The motion to approve the proposed amendments to §215.4 relating to the selection of national nursing accrediting agencies by the Board will be included as part of Agenda Item 7.10.13.