

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2019 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **House Bill 2443**

BY DELEGATES PACK AND COOPER

[Introduced January 15, 2019; Referred  
to the Committee on Health and Human Resources.]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §30-7-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating  
 2 to granting the West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses the  
 3 sole authority for the accreditation of nursing schools.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

**ARTICLE 7. REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL NURSES.**

**§30-7-5. Schools of nursing; accreditation; standards; surveys and reports; failure to maintain standards.**

1 ~~(a) A nursing program is determined to be board approved if the program is accredited by~~  
 2 ~~a national nursing accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education.~~  
 3 ~~The accreditation is considered board approved and is exempt from board rules that require~~  
 4 ~~ongoing approval if the school or program maintains this accreditation.~~

5 ~~(b) By July 1, 2022, all nursing programs shall be accredited by a national accrediting~~  
 6 ~~agency recognized by the United States Department of Education. A program created after July~~  
 7 ~~1, 2018, shall have 5 years to obtain accreditation by an accrediting agency recognized by the~~  
 8 ~~United States Department of Education.~~

9 ~~(c) The board may require information concerning the nursing program to be reported to~~  
 10 ~~the board by legislative rule. The requested information shall be consistent with information~~  
 11 ~~already being collected by the schools which is required to maintain the program's accreditation.~~

12 ~~(d) The board shall approve a new nursing program until the program is accredited by a~~  
 13 ~~national nursing accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education~~

14 An institution desiring to be accredited by the board for the preparation of practitioners of  
 15 registered professional nursing shall file an application with the board, together with the  
 16 information required and a fee of \$50. It shall submit written evidence that: (1) It is prepared to  
 17 give a program of nursing education which meets the standards prescribed by the board; and (2)  
 18 it is prepared to meet all other standards prescribed in this article and by the board.

19 Instruction and practice may be secured in one or more institutions approved by the board.

20 Such institution or institutions with which the school is to be affiliated shall be surveyed by the  
21 executive secretary of the board, who shall submit a written report of the survey to the board. If,  
22 in the opinion of the board, the requirements for an accredited school to prepare practitioners of  
23 registered professional nursing are met, it shall approve the school as an accredited school. From  
24 time to time as deemed necessary by the board, it shall be the duty of the board, through its  
25 executive secretary, to survey all such schools. Written reports of such surveys shall be submitted  
26 to the board. If the board determines that any such accredited school is not maintaining the  
27 standards required by this article and by the board, notice thereof in writing specifying the defect  
28 or defects shall be immediately given to the school. A school which fails to correct these conditions  
29 to the satisfaction of the board within a reasonable time shall be removed from the list of  
30 accredited schools.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to grant the West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses the sole authority for the accreditation of nursing schools. The bill reverts the code provision on nursing school accreditation back to what it was before being amended during the 2018 Legislative Session.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.