

HB 1665 -- Disciplinary Actions Against Nurses

Sponsor: Behnen

This bill authorizes the State Board of Nursing to file a complaint with the Administrative Hearing Commission requesting an expedited hearing for a restriction or suspension on a license for certain activities which the board deems to be a danger to the public health and safety. Within 15 days of the receipt of the complaint, the commission will conduct a preliminary hearing to determine whether the activities of the licensee are a danger to the public. The commission will issue a decision immediately after the hearing either granting the board the authority to suspend or restrict a license or dismissing the action.

A full hearing before the commission will be granted if the licensee makes a formal request within 30 days of the preliminary hearing. If no request is made, the commission's decision becomes final. If the licensee is found to be in violation of any imposed disciplinary action, the matter will be considered a default case and the board is authorized to take appropriate action.

The bill also requires a board of trustees or similarly empowered official of any home health agency, nursing facility, or entity which employs or contracts with licensed health care professionals to take disciplinary action if it finds that a licensee is in violation of the licensing laws for his or her profession. When disciplinary action is taken against a licensee, the entity taking action will report it to the proper health care professional licensing authority.

The bill adds the Division of Professional Registration within the Department of Economic Development to the list of agencies which are authorized to review criminal conviction records for screening purposes.