

HB 815 -- Licensure of Nurses

Sponsor: Meadows

This bill changes the laws regarding the licensing of nurses. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Establishes a lapsed and a retired license status;
- (2) Requires the notice of a disciplinary hearing before the State Board of Nursing to be served by certified mail. If this cannot be accomplished, the board may publish the notice in a local newspaper;
- (3) Allows the board to ask for an expedited hearing before the Administrative Hearing Commission if the board determines that a nurse has committed an act which is a clear and present danger to the public. Fifteen days after the complaint and after a preliminary hearing, the board may immediately restrict or suspend the license. Temporary authority to suspend a license becomes final if the nurse does not request a full hearing within 30 days;
- (4) Allows for the sealing of records if the board, commission, or a court of competent jurisdiction determines that a complaint does not constitute a violation of the Nursing Practice Act and is unsubstantiated;
- (5) Allows a person holding the title of advanced practice registered nurse to use the title or any other title appearing on his or her license;
- (6) Makes it unlawful for any unlicensed person to use the title of nurse;
- (7) Specifies that reports made to the board do not violate the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act because the board qualifies as a health oversight agency; and
- (8) Defines "temporary nursing staffing agency" as any person, firm, partnership, or corporation doing business within the state that supplies, on a temporary basis, registered nurses or licensed practical nurses to a hospital, nursing home, or other facility requiring the service of those persons.