

Agenda Item: 7.5
Prepared by: Jena Abel
January 27-28, 2011

**Consideration of Proposed Amendments to 22 Tex. Admin. Code §217.4,
Pertaining to *Requirements for Initial Licensure by Examination for Nurses Who
Graduate from Nursing Education Programs Outside of United States'
Jurisdiction***

Summary of Request: Consider proposal of amendments to 22 Tex. Admin. Code §217.4, Pertaining to *Requirements for Initial Licensure by Examination for Nurses Who Graduate from Nursing Education Programs Outside of United States' Jurisdiction*.

Background: Existing 22 Tex. Admin. Code §217.4 requires international nurse applicants for initial licensure by examination to achieve an approved score on an English proficiency test acceptable to the Board. The rule, however, does not specify any exceptions to this requirement. It has been the Board's practice for many years, however, to routinely make exceptions to this portion of the rule when an individual can show that his or her nursing program of study was substantially conducted in English (i.e., books were written in English; lectures were given in English; clinicals were conducted in part in English, etc). The proposed amendments formalize the Board's long-standing practice in granting exceptions in this regard. The proposed amendments are attached hereto as Attachment "A".

Board Action: Move to approve the proposed amendments to 22 Tex. Admin. Code §217.4, Pertaining to *Requirements for Initial Licensure by Examination for Nurses Who Graduate from Nursing Education Programs Outside of United States' Jurisdiction*, with authority for General Counsel to make editorial changes as necessary to clarify rule and Board intent and to comply with the formatting requirements of the *Texas Register*. If no negative comments and no request for a public hearing are received, move to adopt the proposed amendments to 22 Tex. Admin. Code §217.4, Pertaining to *Requirements for Initial Licensure by Examination for Nurses Who Graduate from Nursing Education Programs Outside of United States' Jurisdiction*, as proposed.

Attachment “A”

§217.4. Requirements for Initial Licensure by Examination for Nurses Who Graduate from Nursing Education Programs Outside of United States' Jurisdiction.

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

(1) A licensed vocational nurse applicant must:

(A) hold a high school diploma issued by an accredited secondary school or equivalent educational credentials as established by the General Education Development Equivalency Test (GED);

(B) have successfully completed an approved program for educating vocational/practical (second level general nurses) nurses 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

(C) have achieved an approved score on an English proficiency test acceptable to the Board, unless a substantial portion of the applicant's nursing program of study, as determined by the Board, was conducted in English.

(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:

(A) has the educational credentials equivalent to graduation from a governmentally accredited/approved, post-secondary general nursing program of at least two academic years in length;

(B) received both theory and clinical education in each of the following: nursing care of the adult which includes both medical and surgical nursing, maternal/infant nursing, nursing care of children, and psychiatric/mental health nursing;

(C) received initial registration/license as a first-level, general nurse in the country where the applicant completed general nursing education;

(D) is currently registered/licensed as a first-level general nurse; and

(E) has achieved an approved score on an English proficiency test acceptable to the Board, unless a substantial portion of the applicant's nursing program of study, as determined by the Board, was conducted in English.

(3) - (6) (No change.)

(b) - (f) (No change.)