

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021
4

As Engrossed: H3/29/21

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1794

5 By: Representatives Vaught, M. Gray
6 By: Senator D. Wallace
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO CREATE THE LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE PATHWAY
10 PILOT PROGRAM; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER
11 PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

15 TO CREATE THE LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE
16 PATHWAY PILOT PROGRAM; AND TO DECLARE AN
17 EMERGENCY.
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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 16, Subchapter 10, is
23 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

24 6-16-1005. Licensed Practical Nurse Pathway Pilot Program.

25 (a) There is created the Licensed Practical Nurse Pathway Pilot
26 Program.

27 (b) By the 2022-2023 school year, the Division of Elementary and
28 Secondary Education, in consultation with the Division of Higher Education,
29 shall establish and implement the program by which a public school student
30 enrolled in grades nine through twelve (9-12) in a public school or open-
31 enrollment public charter school may enroll in undergraduate courses required
32 to obtain a diploma or certificate of completion as a licensed practical
33 nurse by the date on which the public school student graduates or within a
34 reasonable frame of time after the public school student graduates.

35 (c) The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education shall work with
36 the following entities without limitation to establish and implement the



1 program as required under subsection (b) of this section:

2 (1) The Department of Health;

3 (2) The Division of Higher Education;

4 (3) The Arkansas State Board of Nursing;

5 (4) The Office of Skills Development; and

6 (5) Any other individual or entity involved in the practice of
7 nursing and nursing education programs.

8 (d)(1) A public school district or open-enrollment public charter
9 school shall submit to the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education:

10 (A) An application to participate in the program; and

11 (B) The name of the institution of higher education that
12 has indicated its willingness to partner with the public school district or
13 open-enrollment public charter school to implement the program in the public
14 school district or open-enrollment public charter school.

15 (2) A public school district may apply on behalf of a single
16 public school within the public school district.

17 (3) A public school or open-enrollment public charter school may
18 partner with a secondary vocational center to implement the program under
19 this section.

20 (e) In selecting participants, the Division of Elementary and
21 Secondary Education shall:

22 (1) Consider qualified applicants from various locations and of
23 various sizes and demographics; and

24 (2) Consult with entities listed under subsection (c) of this
25 section.

26 (f) The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, in
27 consultation with the Division of Higher Education, shall develop:

28 (1) An application form, schedule, and procedure by which a
29 public school district or open-enrollment public charter school may apply to
30 participate in the program;

31 (2) Criteria to use in selecting public school districts and
32 open-enrollment public charter schools to participate in the program; and

33 (3) A policy clarifying that an institution of higher education
34 with which a public school district or open-enrollment public charter school
35 is partnered shall exercise oversight and control of the academic aspects of
36 the program, including without limitation faculty selection, curricula, and

1 evaluation processes.

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3 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
4 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the ongoing public health
5 emergency has increased the strain on the state's public health system; that
6 the shortage of nurses in the state has been emphasized by the ongoing public
7 health emergency; and that this act is immediately necessary in order to
8 create accelerated and streamlined opportunities by which young people can
9 obtain licensed practical nursing degrees and enter the workforce earlier.
10 Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately
11 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall
12 become effective on:

13 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

14 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
15 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
16 bill; or

17 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
18 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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20 /s/Vaught

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23 **APPROVED: 4/19/21**
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