

1 State of Arkansas
2 92nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2019
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1552

5 By: Representatives Godfrey, Vaught, Hawks, Della Rosa, D. Douglas, D. Garner, Clowney, G. Hodges
6 By: Senator L. Eads
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAWS CONCERNING NURSING
10 LICENSURES; TO AUTHORIZE THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF
11 NURSING TO LICENSE RECIPIENTS OF THE DEFERRED ACTION
12 FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS POLICY; AND FOR OTHER
13 PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

16 TO AMEND THE LAWS CONCERNING NURSING
17 LICENSURES.
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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23 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings and intent.

24 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

25 (1) The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, also known as
26 "DACA", is a national immigration policy that allows some individuals who are
27 brought to the United States illegally as children to receive a renewable
28 two-year period of deferred action from deportation and to become eligible
29 for a work permit;

30 (2) In order to be eligible under the Deferred Action for
31 Childhood Arrivals policy, a recipient cannot have a criminal record of
32 felonies or serious misdemeanors;

33 (3) Several states allow recipients of the Deferred Action for
34 Childhood Arrivals policy to receive occupational or professional licensure;

35 (4) Arkansas has chosen not to allow recipients of the Deferred
36 Action for Childhood Arrivals policy to receive occupational or professional



1 licensure which has caused many students who are exempt under the Deferred
2 Action for Childhood Arrivals policy to leave the state after completion of
3 their vocational or professional coursework;

4 (5) Arkansas is presently suffering from a nursing shortage
5 across the state; and

6 (6) It is in the best interest of the State of Arkansas to make
7 full use of the skills and talents in the state by ensuring that an
8 individual who is work-authorized under the Deferred Action for Childhood
9 Arrivals policy is able to obtain an occupational or professional license and
10 practice his or her occupation or profession.

11 (b) It is the intent of this act to authorize recipients of the
12 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals policy to receive a nursing license in
13 Arkansas.

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15 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 17, Chapter 87, Subchapter 3, is
16 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

17 17-87-313. Licensing of noncitizens.

18 (a) An individual is not prohibited from receiving a nursing license
19 solely because he or she is not a citizen of the United States.

20 (b) The Arkansas State Board of Nursing may grant a license under this
21 subchapter to an individual who, in addition to fulfilling the requirements
22 to practice nursing in this state, satisfies the following requirements:

23 (1) The United States Department of Homeland Security has
24 approved the individual's request for exemption under the Deferred Action for
25 Childhood Arrivals policy;

26 (2) The individual's exemption status under the Deferred Action
27 for Childhood Arrivals policy has not expired or has been properly renewed;
28 and

29 (3) The individual has a current and valid employment
30 authorization document issued by the United States Citizenship and
31 Immigration Service.

32 (c) This section is a state law within the meaning of subsection (d)
33 of 8 U.S.C. § 1621, as existing on January 1, 2019.

34 (d)(1) The board shall promulgate rules under this section.

35 (2)(A) When adopting the initial rules to implement this
36 section, the final rule shall be filed with the Secretary of State for

1 adoption under § 25-15-204(f):

2 (i) On or before January 1, 2020; or

3 (ii) If approval under § 10-3-309 has not occurred
4 by January 1, 2020, as soon as practicable after approval under § 10-3-309.

5 (B) The board shall file the proposed rule with the
6 Legislative Council under § 10-3-309(c) sufficiently in advance of January 1,
7 2020, so that the Legislative Council may consider the rule for approval
8 before January 1, 2020.

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