

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

# 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; and
- 5 (4) Any other individual or entity involved in the practice of
- 6 nursing and nursing education programs.

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

- 9 (A) An application to participate in the program; and
- 10 (B) The name of the institution of higher education that
- 11 has indicated its willingness to partner with the public school district or
- 12 open-enrollment public charter school to implement the program in the public
- 13 school district or open-enrollment public charter school.

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

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

- 18 (1) Consider qualified applicants from various locations and of
- 19 various sizes and demographics; and
- 20 (2) Consult with entities listed under subsection (c) of this
- 21 section.

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

- 24 (1) An application form, schedule, and procedure by which a
- 25 public school district or open-enrollment public charter school may apply to
- 26 participate in the program;
- 27 (2) Criteria to use in selecting public school districts and
- 28 open-enrollment public charter schools to participate in the program; and
- 29 (3) A policy clarifying that an institution of higher education
- 30 with which a public school district or open-enrollment public charter school
- 31 is partnered shall exercise oversight and control of the academic aspects of
- 32 the program, including without limitation faculty selection, curricula, and
- 33 evaluation processes.

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 35 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the  
 36 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the ongoing public health

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

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

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

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

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