

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2344

Introduced by Assembly Member Nielsen

February 19, 2010

An act to amend Section 2786 of the Business and Professions Code, relating to nursing.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2344, as introduced, Nielsen. Nursing: approved schools.

Existing law, the Nursing Practice Act, provides for the licensure and regulation of registered nurses by the Board of Registered Nursing. Existing law requires the board to prepare and maintain a list of approved schools of nursing in this state and defines an approved school of nursing as one that, among other requirements, is an institution of higher education or is affiliated with an institution of higher education. For purposes of this provision, existing law specifies that the term "institution of higher education" includes community colleges offering an associate degree.

This bill would instead specify that the term "institution of higher education" includes, but is not limited to, community colleges and private postsecondary institutions offering an associate of arts or associate of science degree.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 2786 of the Business and Professions
- 2 Code is amended to read:

1 2786. (a) An approved school of nursing is one ~~which~~ *that* has
2 been approved by the board, gives the course of instruction
3 approved by the board, covering not less than two academic years,
4 is affiliated or conducted in connection with one or more hospitals,
5 and is an institution of higher education or is affiliated with an
6 institution of higher education. For purposes of this section,
7 “institution of higher education” includes, *but is not limited to*,
8 community colleges offering an associate *of arts or associate of*
9 *science* degree and *private postsecondary institutions offering an*
10 *associate of arts or associate of science* degree. An approved
11 school of nursing ~~which~~ *that* is not an institution of higher
12 education shall make an agreement with an institution of higher
13 education in the same general location to grant an associate of arts
14 *or associate of science* degree to individuals who graduate from
15 the school of nursing or to grant a baccalaureate degree in nursing
16 with successful completion of an additional course of study as
17 approved by the board and the institution involved.

18 (b) The board shall determine by regulation the required subjects
19 of instruction to be completed in an approved school of nursing
20 for licensure as a registered nurse and shall include the minimum
21 units of theory and clinical experience necessary to achieve
22 essential clinical competency at the entry level of the registered
23 nurse. The board’s standards shall be designed to encourage all
24 schools to provide clinical instruction in all phases of the
25 educational process.

26 (c) The board shall perform or cause to be performed an analysis
27 of the practice of the registered nurse no less than every five years.
28 Results of the analysis shall be utilized to assist in the
29 determination of the required subjects of instruction, validation of
30 the licensing examination, and assessment of the current practice
31 of nursing.