



Texas League of Vocational Nurses

MRS. MINNIE OTTO, PRESIDENT

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NEEDVILLE, TEXAS 77461

March 26, 1969

ACTION MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Texas League of Vocational Nurses

RE: H.B. 358 by Cummings -- H.B. 359 by Cummings

H.B. 358

The Governmental Affairs and Efficiency Committee of the House heard the above captioned on March 17, 1969. This is the bill that reorganizes the Board of Nurse Examiners to some extent, increases fees, and decreases numbers of hours required for associate degree nursing training.

The Texas League of Vocational Nurses appeared with other groups in opposition to the portion of the bill that reduced the requirements for granting a nursing degree from two calendar years to two academic years. This reduction of from 24 months to 18 months was opposed upon the basis that it jeopardizes not only the 150 plus LVN schools by separating the two classes of nurses by a mere 6 months' training period, but it likewise jeopardizes the hospital schools of nursing (diploma schools - 30-36 months) by decreasing nursing standards. The bill has been sent to a Sub-Committee chaired by Representative Ace Pickens from Odessa with Representatives Joe Hawn from Dallas and Guy Floyd from San Antonio sharing the Sub-Committee assignment. Your comments in support of the Association's position in opposition to that portion of the bill above detailed is needed.

H.B. 359

This bill is also in the Governmental Affairs and Efficiency Committee with the following on the committee: Cavness (Austin), Chairman; Finney, (Fort Worth), Vice-Chairman; Allred (Wichita Falls), Bass of Harris, Farenthold (Corpus Christi), Floyd (San Antonio), Hawkins (Groesbeck), Hawn (Dallas), Howard (Texarkana), Johnson of Bexar, Jones of Harris, Jones of Lubbock, Moyer (Amarillo), Muniz (El Paso), Patterson (Taylor), Pickens (Odessa), Ratcliff (Dallas).

The bill has two sections. Section 1 of the bill makes mandatory the licensing of Registered Nurses and thus, their definition of "professional nursing" becomes the critical point for analysis. With a mandatory act, the bill would require that anyone who performs an act of "professional nursing" must be an R.N. (Professional nursing is defined as meaning:)

...the performance for compensation of any nursing act

- "(a) in the observation, care and counsel of the ill, injured or infirm;
- "(b) in the maintenance of health or prevention of illness of others;
- "(c) in the administration of medication or treatments as prescribed by a licensed physician or dentist;
- "(d) in the supervision or teaching of nursing, insofar as any of the above acts require substantial specialized judgment and skill and insofar as the proper performance of any of the above acts is based upon knowledge and application of the principles of biological, physical and social science as acquired by a completed course in an approved school of professional nursing." §5.

This would cut out the LVN. from continuing her nursing procedure - good patient care the past 20 years. ???

Any individual performing any of those acts then must be licensed by the Board of Nurse Examiners. The status of the LVN (some 40,000 in Texas), aides, TB Nurses, medical students, nursing students, Medical and X-ray Technologists, and others, becomes doubtful.

Watch it!

Even more emphasis is given to these doubts by Section 2 of the bill which is entitled "Exemptions" and lists as THE ONLY EXEMPTION TO THE ABOVE REQUIREMENTS "GRATUITOUS NURSING OF THE SICK BY FRIENDS" OR "FURNISHING OF NURSING CARE WHERE TREATMENT IS BY PRAYER OR SPIRITUAL MEANS ALONE."

Your opposition to this latest attempt by the Texas Nurses Association to impose a many time rejected mandatory nurse practice act is urged.

Stand up and be counted: LVN'S OF TEXAS.

However we are licensed Vocational Nurses. So then the Bill we should present... is to add Professional to our names.

...it that the 40,000 LVN's are protected and recognized as nurses, with the same status she has had - except elevated to State Recognition & Protection.

of the above bill H. R. 359 Law Recs.