



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 320

February Session, 2000

Substitute Senate Bill No. 536

Senate, March 30, 2000

The Committee on Public Health reported through SEN. HARP of the 10th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

An Act Concerning Nurse Staffing And Care Quality Data Collection And A Study Of Nursing Shortages.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 19a-613 of the general statutes, as amended by
2 section 1 of public act 99-172, is repealed and the following is
3 substituted in lieu thereof:

4 (a) The Office of Health Care Access may employ the most effective
5 and practical means necessary to fulfill the purposes of this chapter,
6 which may include, but need not be limited to:

7 (1) Collecting patient-level outpatient data from health care facilities
8 or institutions, as defined in section 19a-630, as amended;

9 (2) Establishing a cooperative data collection effort, across public
10 and private sectors, to assure that adequate health care personnel
11 demographics are readily available; and

12 (3) Performing the duties and functions as enumerated in
13 [subsection (b)] subsections (b), (d) and (e) of this section.

14 (b) The office shall: (1) Authorize and oversee the collection of data
15 required to carry out the provisions of this chapter; (2) oversee and
16 coordinate health system planning for the state; (3) monitor health care
17 costs; and (4) implement and oversee health care reform as enacted by
18 the General Assembly.

19 (c) The Commissioner of Health Care Access, or [any person the
20 commissioner designates] the commissioner's designee, may conduct a
21 hearing and render a final decision in any case when a hearing is
22 required or authorized under the provisions of any statute dealing
23 with the Office of Health Care Access.

24 (d) The office shall monitor graduate medical education and its
25 sources of funding and shall annually (1) review the financial
26 implications of such education for hospitals, and (2) evaluate the effect
27 of such education on (A) access to health care, and (B) sufficiency of
28 the health care provider workforce. The office shall create an advisory
29 council to advise the commissioner on graduate medical education.
30 Not later than January first, annually, the office shall submit a report
31 on its findings and recommendations under this subsection to the joint
32 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
33 matters relating to public health, in accordance with the provisions of
34 section 11-4a. For purposes of this subsection, "graduate medical
35 education" means the formal clinical education and training of a
36 physician or other health care provider that follows graduation from
37 medical school and prepares the physician or health care provider for
38 licensure and practice.

39 [(e) Not later than January 1, 2000, and annually thereafter, the
40 office shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the
41 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance
42 of matters relating to public health, in accordance with the provisions

43 of section 11-4a.]

44 (e) The office shall: (1) Develop a single, uniform method for
45 collecting and analyzing standardized data concerning the linkage
46 between nurse staffing levels and the quality of acute care, long-term
47 care and home care, including patient outcomes; (2) conduct an
48 ongoing study of the relationship between nurse staffing patterns in
49 hospitals and the quality of health care, including patient outcomes; (3)
50 obtain relevant licensure and demographic data that may be available
51 from other state agencies and make the data collected under this
52 subsection available to the public in a standardized format; and (4)
53 collaborate with hospitals and the nursing profession with respect to
54 the collection of standardized data concerning patient care outcomes at
55 such hospitals and make such data available to the public in a report
56 card format.

57 Sec. 2. The Commissioner of Public Health shall conduct a study
58 concerning the shortage of nurses in this state. Such study shall
59 include, but not be limited to: (1) An examination of the causes
60 underlying the current shortage of nurses in this state and
61 recommendations for the alleviation of such shortage; (2)
62 recommendations for implementing methods of collecting uniform
63 data concerning nurse-to-patient ratios in hospitals, nursing homes
64 and home health agencies, including the feasibility of obtaining such
65 data from other state or federal agencies; and (3) recommendations for
66 supplementing nursing care in this state in response to such shortage,
67 including recommendations concerning the feasibility of developing
68 criteria for the certification, training and supervision of medication
69 technicians in long-term care facilities. Not later than December 31,
70 2000, the commissioner shall submit a report of the commissioner's
71 findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the
72 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public
73 health, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
74 general statutes.

PH **Committee Vote:** Yea 25 Nay 0 JFS

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: Cost

Affected Agencies: Office of Health Care Access, Department of Public Health

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

State Impact:

The Office of Health Care Access (OCHA) will incur an FY 01 cost of approximately \$320,000 to comply with provisions of Section 1 of the bill. Included in this sum is \$250,000 to support the costs of database development and \$70,000 to support one analyst position needed to develop a nurse staffing/quality of care data collection system, conduct a study on hospital nurse staffing patterns and outcomes, compile and make available to the public relevant licensure and demographic data held by other state agencies, and collaborate with hospitals and the nursing profession regarding the collection of patient care outcomes with the intent of publishing such information in a report card format.

In subsequent fiscal years, costs to OHCA will be approximately \$240,000, as ongoing data processing expenses will fall to \$170,000 once system development is completed.

The Department of Public Health (DPH) will incur a one-time cost of approximately \$150,000 in FY 01 to retain consultant services necessary to complete the required study on the shortage of nurses in Connecticut by December 31, 2000.

No funding has been included within either the House or Senate versions of the Revised FY 01 Appropriations Act for anticipated expenses incurred by the OHCA or the DPH in response to passage of this bill.

OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 536

AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF NURSING SHORTAGES.**SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Office of Health Care Access (OHCA) to undertake a number of activities concerning nursing in Connecticut. It also directs the Department of Public Health (DPH) to study the nursing shortage in the state.

Under the bill, OHCA must:

1. develop a single, uniform method for collecting and analyzing standardized data on the linkage between nurse staffing levels and the quality of acute care, long-term care, and home care, including patient outcomes;
2. conduct an ongoing study of the relationship between nurse staffing patterns in hospitals and quality of health care, including patient outcomes;
3. obtain relevant licensure and demographic data that may be available from other state agencies and make it available to the public in a standardized form; and
4. collaborate with hospitals and the nursing profession concerning collection of standardized data on patient care outcomes at hospitals, and make it available to the public in a report card format.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2000

DPH NURSING SHORTAGE STUDY

The DPH commissioner's study on the nursing shortage must address (1) the causes of the shortage in the state and recommendations for its alleviation; (2) make recommendations for implementing methods of collecting uniform data on nurse-to-patient ratios in hospitals, nursing homes, and home health agencies, including the feasibility of getting

the data from other state and federal agencies; and (3) make recommendations for supplementing nursing care in response to the shortage, including recommendations on the feasibility of developing criteria for the certification, training, and supervision of medication technicians in long-term care facilities.

The commissioner must report his findings and recommendations to the Public Health Committee by December 31, 2000.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 25 Nay 0