



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 1374**

*January Session, 2001*

**AN ACT ADDRESSING THE NURSING AND HEALTHCARE  
WORKFORCE SHORTAGE.**

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (a) The General Assembly finds that there is a  
2 critical shortage of licensed registered nurses, licensed practical nurses,  
3 certified nurse's aides, home health aides and certain other health care  
4 workers available to provide patient care in health care institutions  
5 licensed by the Department of Public Health pursuant to section 19a-  
6 490 of the general statutes. There is established a Nursing and Health  
7 Care Workforce Shortage Trust Fund to provide for grants-in-aid of  
8 education, the promotion of nursing as a profession and other  
9 categories of health care workers experiencing workforce shortages, as  
10 determined by the Commission on Connecticut's Nursing and Health  
11 Care Workforce Shortage established pursuant to section 2 of this act,  
12 other programs set forth in this act and additional programs that may  
13 be recommended by said commission. The fund shall contain any  
14 moneys required by law to be deposited in the fund and shall be held  
15 in trust, separate and apart from all other moneys, funds and accounts.  
16 Investment earnings credited to the assets of the fund shall become  
17 part of the assets of the fund. Any balance remaining in the fund at the  
18 end of any fiscal year shall be carried forward in said fund for the  
19 fiscal year next succeeding. The fund and accrued investment earnings  
20 shall be expended during the period from July 1, 2001, to June 30, 2010.

21 (b) The sum of \_\_\_\_ dollars shall be allocated from surplus funds to  
22 establish the Nursing and Health Care Workforce Shortage Trust  
23 Fund.

24 Sec. 2. (NEW) (a) There is established a Commission on  
25 Connecticut's Nursing and Health Care Workforce Shortage. The  
26 commission shall develop and implement a plan to promote  
27 recruitment and retention of licensed registered nurses, licensed  
28 practical nurses, qualified certified nurse's aides who work both in  
29 homecare and nursing homes and home health aides for Connecticut's  
30 nursing workforce. The commission shall identify other categories of  
31 health care workers where a shortage exists and shall broaden the plan  
32 to include such health care workers as necessary. The commission shall  
33 make recommendations to the Department of Public Health on data  
34 collection pertaining to such other health care workers pursuant to  
35 section 10 of this act. The plan shall include approaches to promote  
36 nursing and health care workforce diversity including, but not limited  
37 to, racial, ethnic and gender diversity and to enhance the  
38 attractiveness, as a career choice, of the nursing profession and other  
39 categories of health care workers experiencing workforce shortages as  
40 determined by the commission. The commission shall make  
41 recommendations to the Office of Policy and Management, the  
42 Department of Education, the Department of Social Services, the  
43 Department of Public Health and the Office of Workforce  
44 Competitiveness regarding implementation of section 10a-162a of the  
45 general statutes, as amended by this act, sections 4 to 10, inclusive, of  
46 this act, section 19a-89a of the general statutes, as amended by this act,  
47 section 12 of this act and subsection (f) of section 17b-340 of the general  
48 statutes, as amended by this act. The commission shall consider  
49 programs in addition to those set forth in this act to address the  
50 nursing and health care workforce needs of Connecticut's citizens and  
51 shall recommend to the General Assembly such legislation as may be  
52 necessary to establish such programs. Such programs may include, but  
53 shall not be limited to, extended graduate nursing residency programs,  
54 ergonomics initiatives, implementation of supportive technology and

55 any other mechanisms in furtherance of the purposes of this act.

56 (b) The commission shall consist of the following members:

57 (1) A member appointed by the speaker of the House of  
58 Representatives;

59 (2) A member appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

60 (3) A member appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
61 Representatives;

62 (4) A member appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

63 (5) The Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's  
64 designee;

65 (6) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee;

66 (7) The Commissioner of Social Services, or the commissioner's  
67 designee;

68 (8) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing  
69 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
70 relating to public health, higher education and social services, or their  
71 designees; and

72 (9) A representative of the Connecticut State Board of Examiners for  
73 Nursing, established under section 20-88 of the general statutes, who  
74 shall be appointed by said board.

75 (c) All appointments to the commission shall be made no later than  
76 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be  
77 filled by the appointing authority.

78 (d) The chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting of the  
79 commission, which shall be held no later than sixty days after the  
80 effective date of this section.

81 (e) Not later than January 1, 2002, and annually thereafter, the  
82 commission shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations  
83 to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having  
84 cognizance of matters relating to public health, higher education and  
85 social services in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the  
86 general statutes and to the select committee of the General Assembly  
87 having cognizance of matters relating to workforce development.

88 (f) The sum of \_\_\_ dollars shall be allocated from Connecticut's  
89 Nursing and Health Care Workforce Shortage Trust Fund to the  
90 commission for the purposes of this section.

91 Sec. 3. Section 10a-162a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
92 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

93 [The Board of Governors of Higher Education, in consultation with  
94 the State Board of Examiners for Nursing and the Commissioner of  
95 Public Health, shall administer a scholarship program for nursing  
96 education within the state and shall establish a program for the  
97 forgiveness of loans provided by the state to residents for nursing  
98 education within the state. The loans shall be forgiven if the resident  
99 remains in the nursing field in Connecticut for five years. For purposes  
100 of this section, "nursing education" includes any program of study and  
101 courses taken to enter or to advance in the profession or to upgrade  
102 knowledge and skills. The board of governors, in consultation with the  
103 State Board of Examiners for Nursing and the Commissioner of Public  
104 Health, shall adopt regulations in accordance with the provisions of  
105 chapter 54 to establish procedures to administer the scholarship  
106 program for nursing education and the program for the forgiveness of  
107 loans provided by the state to residents for nursing education.]

108 (a) The Board of Governors of Higher Education, in consultation  
109 with the State Board of Examiners for Nursing, the Commissioner of  
110 Public Health and the Commission on Connecticut's Nursing and  
111 Health Care Workforce Shortage shall administer a health care  
112 workforce scholarship program for nursing education within the state

113 that provides scholarships to students enrolled in a nursing program  
114 approved by the Department of Higher Education pursuant to section  
115 10a-6.

116 (b) Scholarship recipients shall attend an accredited college or  
117 university within the state of Connecticut, be enrolled in an eligible  
118 academic program, maintain a "B" or 3.0 grade point average or better  
119 and work for a minimum of twenty hours per week as a licensed  
120 registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, qualified certified nurse's  
121 aide or qualified home health aide in a health care institution licensed  
122 by the Department of Public Health pursuant to section 19a-490 for  
123 three years following graduation. If a scholarship recipient fails to  
124 meet the criteria outlined in this subsection, all funds shall be  
125 reimbursed to the granting authority.

126 (c) An individual student may receive a maximum total of twelve  
127 thousand dollars in scholarship funds but in no case shall the  
128 scholarship be more than twenty-five hundred dollars per semester.  
129 Scholarship funds may be used for tuition and fees and such other  
130 costs as the academic institution may deem appropriate, including, but  
131 not limited to, transportation, child care or clinical subsidies related to  
132 the student's academic work.

133 (d) The Commissioner of Public Health, in consultation with the  
134 Board of Governors, the State Board of Examiners for Nursing and the  
135 Commission on Connecticut's Nursing and Health Care Workforce  
136 Shortage shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of  
137 chapter 54, to establish procedures to administer the scholarship  
138 program for nursing education.

139 (e) The sum of \_\_\_\_\_ dollars shall be allocated from Connecticut's  
140 Nursing and Health Care Workforce Shortage Trust Fund for purposes  
141 of this section. Allocation of the funds shall be consistent with sections  
142 10a-36 to 19a-42g, inclusive.

143 Sec. 4. (NEW) (a) The Board of Trustees for Connecticut  
144 Community-Technical Colleges shall develop an initiative to address

145 Connecticut's nursing and health care workforce shortage. Such  
146 initiative shall seek to increase the number of nursing and health care  
147 workers in Connecticut by expanding and enhancing educational  
148 opportunities in community-technical colleges. The initiative shall  
149 include, but not be limited to, the following: (1) Expansion of existing  
150 nursing and health care academic programs to promote increased  
151 enrollment and retention; (2) development of alternative programs to  
152 address flexibility needs of nursing and health care students; (3)  
153 recruitment and retention of underserved populations; (4) distance  
154 learning initiatives; and (5) development of articulation agreements to  
155 facilitate degree enhancement activities.

156 (b) The Board of Trustees for Connecticut Community-Technical  
157 Colleges shall provide the Department of Higher Education, the  
158 Department of Public Health, the Commission on Connecticut's  
159 Nursing and Health Care Workforce Shortage, the joint standing  
160 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
161 relating to public health, education and appropriations and the select  
162 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
163 relating to workforce development with a report concerning its  
164 nursing and health care workforce development initiative no later than  
165 January 1, 2003.

166 (c) The sum of two million dollars shall be allocated from the  
167 Nursing and Health Care Workforce Shortage Trust Fund for each of  
168 the next two fiscal years to community-technical colleges to fund such  
169 initiative.

170 (d) The sum of one million five hundred thousand dollars shall be  
171 allocated from the Nursing and Health Care Workforce Shortage Trust  
172 Fund to the community-technical colleges for curriculum  
173 development, clinical subsidies and equipment purchases related to  
174 the expansion of nursing and health care education programs at the  
175 community-technical colleges.

176 Sec. 5. (NEW) (a) The Board of Trustees of the Connecticut State

177 University System shall develop an initiative to address Connecticut's  
178 nursing and health care workforce shortage. Such initiative shall seek  
179 to increase the number of nursing and health care workers in  
180 Connecticut by expanding and enhancing educational opportunities in  
181 the Connecticut State University System. The initiative shall include,  
182 but not be limited to, the following: (1) Expansion of existing nursing  
183 and health care academic programs to promote increased enrollment  
184 and retention; (2) development of alternative programs to address  
185 flexibility needs of nursing and health care students; (3) recruitment  
186 and retention of underserved populations; (4) distance learning  
187 initiatives; and (5) development of articulation agreements to facilitate  
188 degree enhancement activities.

189 (b) The Connecticut State University System shall provide the  
190 Department of Higher Education, the Department of Public Health, the  
191 Commission on Connecticut's Nursing and Health Care Workforce  
192 Shortage, the joint standing committees of the General Assembly  
193 having cognizance of matters relating to public health, education and  
194 appropriations and the select committee of the General Assembly  
195 having cognizance of matters relating to workforce development with  
196 a report concerning its nursing and health care workforce  
197 development initiative no later than January 1, 2003.

198 (c) The sum of two million dollars shall be allocated from the  
199 Nursing and Health Care Workforce Shortage Trust Fund for each of  
200 the next two fiscal years to the Connecticut State University System to  
201 fund such program.

202 (d) The sum of one million five hundred thousand dollars shall be  
203 allocated from the Nursing and Health Care Workforce Shortage Trust  
204 Fund to the Connecticut State University System. Such funds may only  
205 be used for curriculum development, clinical subsidies and equipment  
206 purchases related to expanding nursing and health care education  
207 programs at the Connecticut State University System.

208 Sec. 6. (NEW) (a) The University of Connecticut shall develop an

209 initiative to address Connecticut's nursing and health care workforce  
210 shortage. Such initiative shall seek to increase the number of nursing  
211 and health care workers in Connecticut by expanding and enhancing  
212 educational opportunities at The University of Connecticut. The  
213 program shall include, but not be limited to, the following: (1)  
214 Expansion of existing nursing and health care academic programs to  
215 promote increased enrollment and retention; (2) development of  
216 alternative programs to address flexibility needs of nursing and health  
217 care students; (3) recruitment and retention of underserved  
218 populations; (4) development of distance learning initiatives; and (5)  
219 development of articulation agreements to facilitate degree  
220 enhancement activities.

221 (b) The University of Connecticut shall provide the Department of  
222 Higher Education, the Department of Public Health, the Commission  
223 on Connecticut's Nursing and Health Care Workforce Shortage, the  
224 joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance  
225 of matters relating to public health, education and appropriations and  
226 the select committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
227 matters relating to workforce development with a report concerning its  
228 nursing and health care workforce development initiative no later than  
229 January 1, 2003.

230 (c) The sum of two million dollars shall be allocated from the  
231 Nursing and Health Care Workforce Shortage Trust Fund for each of  
232 the next two fiscal years to The University of Connecticut to fund such  
233 initiative.

234 (d) The sum of one million five hundred thousand dollars shall be  
235 allocated from the Nursing and Health Care Workforce Shortage Trust  
236 Fund to The University of Connecticut. Such funds may only be used  
237 for curriculum development, clinical subsidies and equipment  
238 purchases related to expanding nursing and health care education  
239 programs at The University of Connecticut.

240 Sec. 7. (NEW) (a) Charter Oak State College shall develop an

241 initiative to address Connecticut's nursing and health care workforce  
242 shortage. Such initiative shall seek to increase the number of nursing  
243 and health care workers in Connecticut by expanding and enhancing  
244 educational opportunities at Charter Oak College. The program shall  
245 include, but not be limited to, the following: (1) Expansion of existing  
246 nursing and health care academic programs to promote increased  
247 enrollment and retention; (2) development of alternative programs to  
248 address flexibility needs of nursing and health care students; (3)  
249 recruitment and retention of underserved populations; (4)  
250 development of distance learning initiatives; and (5) development of  
251 articulation agreements to facilitate degree enhancement activities.

252 (b) Charter Oak State College shall provide the Department of  
253 Higher Education, the Department of Public Health, the Commission  
254 on Connecticut's Nursing and Health Care Workforce Shortage, the  
255 joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance  
256 of matters relating to public health, education and appropriations and  
257 the select committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
258 matters relating to workforce development with a report concerning its  
259 nursing and health care workforce development initiative no later than  
260 January 1, 2003.

261 (c) The sum of five hundred thousand dollars shall be allocated  
262 from Connecticut's Nursing and Health Care Workforce Shortage  
263 Trust Fund for each of the next two fiscal years to Charter Oak State  
264 College to fund such program.

265 (d) The sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars shall be allocated  
266 from Connecticut's Nursing and Health Care Workforce Shortage  
267 Trust Fund to Charter Oak State College. Such funds may only be used  
268 for curriculum development, clinical subsidies and equipment  
269 purchases related to expanding nursing and health care education  
270 programs at Charter Oak State College.

271 Sec. 8. (NEW) (a) The Department of Higher Education shall  
272 provide Connecticut's Independent Colleges with funds to develop an

273 initiative to address Connecticut's nursing and health care workforce  
274 shortage. Such initiative shall seek to increase the number of nursing  
275 and health care workers in Connecticut by expanding and enhancing  
276 educational opportunities at Connecticut's Independent Colleges. The  
277 program shall include, but not be limited to, the following: (1)  
278 Expansion of existing nursing and health care academic programs to  
279 promote increased enrollment and retention; (2) development of  
280 alternative programs to address flexibility needs of nursing and health  
281 care students; (3) recruitment and retention of underserved  
282 populations; (4) development of distance learning initiatives; and (5)  
283 development of articulation agreements to facilitate degree  
284 enhancement activities.

285 (b) Each independent college that receives funds shall provide the  
286 Department of Higher Education, the Department of Public Health, the  
287 Commission on Connecticut's Nursing and Health Care Workforce  
288 Shortage, the joint standing committees of the General Assembly  
289 having cognizance of matters relating to public health, education and  
290 appropriations and the select committee of the General Assembly  
291 having cognizance of matters relating to workforce development with  
292 a report concerning its nursing and health care workforce  
293 development initiative no later than January 1, 2003.

294 (c) The sum of two million dollars shall be allocated from  
295 Connecticut's Nursing and Health Care Workforce Shortage Trust  
296 Fund for each of the next two fiscal years to the Department of Higher  
297 Education to fund such initiative.

298 (d) The sum of one million five hundred thousand dollars shall be  
299 allocated from Connecticut's Nursing and Health Care Workforce  
300 Shortage Trust Fund to the Department of Higher Education. Such  
301 funds may only be used for curriculum development, clinical subsidies  
302 and equipment purchases related to expanding nursing and health  
303 care education programs at such independent colleges.

304 Sec. 9. (NEW) (a) The Bridgeport Hospital School of Nursing, shall

305 develop an initiative to address Connecticut's nursing and health care  
306 workforce shortage. Such initiative shall seek to increase the number of  
307 nursing and health care workers in Connecticut by expanding and  
308 enhancing educational opportunities at Bridgeport Hospital School of  
309 Nursing. The initiative shall include, but not be limited to, the  
310 following: (1) Expansion of existing nursing and health care academic  
311 programs to promote increased enrollment and retention; (2)  
312 development of alternative programs to address flexibility needs of  
313 nursing and health care students; (3) recruitment and retention of  
314 underserved populations; (4) development of distance learning  
315 initiatives; and (5) development of articulation agreements to facilitate  
316 degree enhancement activities.

317 (b) Not later than January 1, 2003, the Bridgeport Hospital School of  
318 Nursing shall submit a report concerning its nursing and health care  
319 workforce development initiative to the Department of Higher  
320 Education, the Department of Public Health, the Commission on  
321 Connecticut's Nursing and Health Care Workforce Shortage, the joint  
322 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
323 matters relating to public health, education and appropriations and the  
324 select committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
325 matters relating to workforce development.

326 (c) The sum of five hundred thousand dollars shall be allocated to  
327 the Bridgeport Hospital School of Nursing from Connecticut's Nursing  
328 and Health Care Workforce Shortage Trust Fund for each of the next  
329 two fiscal years to fund such initiative.

330 (d) The sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars shall be allocated  
331 to the Bridgeport Hospital School of Nursing from Connecticut's  
332 Nursing and Health Care Workforce Shortage Trust Fund for the sole  
333 purposes of curriculum development, clinical subsidies and equipment  
334 purchases related to expanding nursing and health care education  
335 programs at the Bridgeport Hospital School of Nursing.

336 Sec. 10. (NEW) (a) There is established a task force on paperwork

337 reduction and technology access. The task force shall explore  
338 approaches to paperwork reduction in health care. Such approaches  
339 may include, but shall not be limited to: (1) Standardization of medical  
340 and nursing documentation requirements; (2) analysis of the impact of  
341 the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996  
342 (HIPAA) on the state's health care payors, providers, clearinghouses  
343 and their business associates; (3) analysis of the impact of federal  
344 ergonomics regulations on the state's health care providers,  
345 clearinghouses and their business associates; and (4) development of  
346 standards for electronic documentation in accordance with applicable  
347 state and federal requirements.

348 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

349 (1) A member appointed by the speaker of the House of  
350 Representatives;

351 (2) A member appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

352 (3) A member appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
353 Representatives;

354 (4) A member appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

355 (5) The Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's  
356 designee;

357 (6) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing  
358 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
359 relating to public health, or their designees; and

360 (7) A representative of the Connecticut State Board of Examiners for  
361 Nursing, established under section 20-88 of the general statutes, who  
362 shall be appointed by said board.

363 (c) All appointments to the task force shall be made no later than  
364 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be  
365 filled by the appointing authority.

366 (d) The chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting of the task  
367 force, which shall be held no later than sixty days after the effective  
368 date of this section.

369 (e) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the  
370 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public  
371 health shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

372 (f) Not later than January 1, 2002, the task force shall submit a report  
373 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee  
374 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to  
375 public health and to the select committee of the General Assembly  
376 having cognizance of matters relating to workforce development, in  
377 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.  
378 The task force shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or  
379 January 1, 2002, whichever is earlier.

380 (g) The sum of \_\_\_ dollars shall be allocated from Connecticut's  
381 Nursing and Health Care Workforce Shortage Trust Fund for the  
382 purposes of this section.

383 Sec. 11. Section 19a-89a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
384 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

385 (a) The Department of Public Health, in consultation with the State  
386 Board of Examiners for Nursing and the Commission on Connecticut's  
387 Nursing and Health Care Workforce Shortage established pursuant to  
388 section 2 of this act, shall establish [a] an electronic database on  
389 nursing personnel and, as determined by the commission, other health  
390 care personnel to ensure that adequate demographics on nursing and  
391 other health care personnel are readily available and to assist the  
392 department, the board, the commission, other state agencies,  
393 employers of nurses and other health care workers, educational  
394 institutions and professional and health care industry associations and  
395 societies in assessing the availability of nursing and other health care  
396 personnel, planning for [nurse] staffing patterns and practices, and in  
397 developing and implementing their respective programs and activities.

398 (b) The database on nursing and other health care personnel  
399 described in subsection (a) of this section shall include demographic  
400 data on (1) the number of licensed nurses and other health care  
401 workers in different licensure and certification categories, as  
402 applicable, and (2) the number of individuals enrolled in nursing or  
403 other health care training programs at vocational or higher education  
404 institutions. Such demographic data shall include, but not be limited  
405 to, data on age, race and ethnic background, sex, educational level  
406 attained, place of residence, field of practice, whether the individual is  
407 currently employed, and if so, whether full time or part time and  
408 whether the individual is retired. In establishing the database, the  
409 department shall obtain any relevant demographic data that may be  
410 available from other state and federal agencies.

411 (c) The Department of Public Health shall conduct biennial analyses  
412 of data collected pursuant to subsections (a) and (b) of this section and  
413 shall prepare reports of such analyses.

414 (d) The Department of Public Health shall collaborate with  
415 hospitals, nursing homes, home health care agencies, hospices, nurses,  
416 physicians and their respective trade associations in data collection  
417 and analysis pursuant to subsections (a), (b) and (c) of this section and  
418 shall make all data collected and any reports analyzing such data  
419 available to the public.

420 (e) The name, address and other personally identifiable information  
421 of individuals obtained by the Department of Public Health for  
422 purposes of establishing and maintaining the database described in  
423 subsection (a) of this section shall be confidential and shall not be  
424 subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act. Nothing  
425 in this section shall prohibit the Department of Public Health from  
426 publishing statistical compilations and reports that do not in any way  
427 identify individuals.

428 (f) The department shall implement the database as described in  
429 subsections (a) and (b) of this section as to nursing personnel on the

430 effective date of this act and shall implement said subsections (a) and  
431 (b) as to other health care personnel as determined necessary by the  
432 commission.

433 (g) The sum of \_\_\_\_\_ dollars shall be allocated from Connecticut's  
434 Nursing and Health Care Workforce Shortage Trust Fund to the  
435 Department of Public Health for purposes of establishing and  
436 maintaining the database described in subsection (a) of this section.

437 Sec. 12. (NEW) The Commissioner of Public Health shall submit a  
438 request to the federal Department of Health and Human Services,  
439 Health Care Financing Administration, for waiver of applicable federal  
440 laws in order to enable chronic and convalescent nursing homes and  
441 rest homes with nursing supervision to employ single task workers in  
442 such facilities, as a response to the shortage of nursing personnel in  
443 this state.

444 Sec. 13. Subsection (f) of section 17b-340 of the general statutes is  
445 amended by adding subdivision (16) as follows:

446 (NEW) (16) In order to address the shortage of nursing staff in the  
447 state, for fiscal years ending June 30, 2002, and June 30, 2003, the  
448 Commissioner of Social Services shall adjust the rates of all chronic  
449 and convalescent nursing homes, rest homes with nursing supervision,  
450 chronic disease hospitals, residential care homes and intermediate care  
451 facilities for the mentally retarded, to reimburse such facilities for the  
452 Medicaid portion of the following costs: (A) Wages, salaries and  
453 benefits, including, but not limited to, any tuition subsidies paid to any  
454 facility employee for time off from employment to pursue (i) a nursing  
455 program, or (ii) a program for the training of licensed practical nurses  
456 approved by the State Board of Examiners for Nursing personnel  
457 pursuant to subsection (a) of section 20-90, or (iii) to pursue any other  
458 program of study undertaken to advance in the profession of nursing  
459 or upgrade knowledge and skills in nursing; (B) the costs of recruiting  
460 nursing staff, including, but not limited to, signing bonuses, payments  
461 to recruiting agencies, fees for recruitment of foreign nurses and

462 reimbursement of employee relocation expenses; and (C) the costs  
463 incurred to retain nursing staff, including, but not limited to, retention  
464 incentive bonuses and paid time off. The commissioner shall reimburse  
465 such facilities in full for such costs. Such costs shall not be subject to  
466 the maximum allowable cost caps set forth in subdivision (3) of this  
467 subsection, the rate increase maximums set forth in subdivision (3) of  
468 this subsection or to any other limitations on reimbursement set forth  
469 in any applicable provision of the general statutes or Regulations of  
470 Connecticut State Agencies. The commissioner shall base the rate  
471 adjustment for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, on cost reports  
472 submitted for the cost year ending September 20, 2000, and shall base  
473 the rate adjustment for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003, on cost  
474 reports submitted for the cost year ending September 30, 2001. The  
475 commissioner may require facilities to submit any supplemental cost  
476 data necessary for calculation of the rate adjustment. For purposes of  
477 this subsection, "nursing staff" means licensed registered nurses,  
478 licensed practical nurses and certified nurse's aides.

479       Sec. 14. Section 17b-242 of the general statutes is amended by  
480 adding subsection (c) as follows:

481       (NEW) (c) In order to address the shortage of nursing staff in the  
482 state, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2002, and June 30, 2003, the  
483 Commissioner of Social Services shall pay each home health care  
484 agency, homemaker-home health aide agency and hospice an  
485 adjustment to reimburse such agency for the Medicaid portion of the  
486 following costs: (1) Wages, salaries and benefits, including, but not  
487 limited to, any tuition subsidies paid to any agency employee for time  
488 off from employment to pursue (A) a nursing program, or (B) a  
489 program for the training of licensed practical nurses approved by the  
490 State Board of Examiners for Nursing Personnel pursuant to  
491 subsection (a) of section 20-90, or (C) any other program of study  
492 undertaken for the advancement in the profession of nursing, or (D) an  
493 upgrade of knowledge and skills in nursing; (2) the costs of recruiting  
494 nursing staff, including, but not limited to, signing bonuses, payments  
495 to recruiting agencies, fees for recruitment of foreign nurses and

496 reimbursement of employee relocation expenses; and (3) the costs  
497 incurred to retain nursing staff, including, but not limited to, retention  
498 incentive bonuses and paid time off. The commissioner shall reimburse  
499 home health care agencies, homemaker-home health aide agencies and  
500 hospices in full for such costs. Such costs shall not be subject to any  
501 caps or limitations on reimbursement. The commissioner may require  
502 home health care agencies, homemaker-home health aide agencies and  
503 hospices to submit any cost data necessary for calculation of the  
504 adjustment. For purposes of this subsection, "nursing staff" means any  
505 licensed registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, certified nurse's  
506 aide or homemaker-home health aide.

507       Sec. 15. The sum of sixty-five thousand dollars is appropriated to  
508 Charter Oak State College, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, for  
509 operating expenses for the purpose of developing an online nursing  
510 refresher course.

511       Sec. 16. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

**WFD**

**JOINT FAVORABLE SUBST. C/R**

**PH**