



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 360

February Session, 2002

Substitute Senate Bill No. 367

Senate, April 8, 2002

The Committee on Education reported through SEN. GAFFEY of the 13th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT ADDRESSING THE SHORTAGE OF NURSES,
PHARMACISTS, ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS, DENTAL
HYGIENISTS AND DENTAL ASSISTANTS.***

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

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a
2 Connecticut nursing, pharmacy and allied health profession incentive
3 program administered by the Department of Higher Education.
- 4 (b) Within available appropriations, the program shall provide
5 grants to nursing, pharmacy and allied health students (1) in nursing,
6 pharmacy or allied health education programs at any institution of
7 higher education approved by the Board of Governors of Higher
8 Education or at any regional vocational-technical school, or (2)
9 completing the requirements of such a nursing, pharmacy or allied
10 health education program as a graduate student, provided such
11 student received a grant pursuant to this section for one year at the
12 undergraduate level. No student shall receive a grant under the

13 program for more than two years. Maximum grants shall not exceed
14 five thousand dollars per year. The department shall ensure that at
15 least ten per cent of the grant recipients are minority students who
16 transfer from a Connecticut regional community-technical college.

17 (c) A student who received grants under subsection (b) of this
18 section, and who is employed as a nurse, pharmacist or allied health
19 professional in an acute care hospital in this state, a health care
20 institution in this state, as defined in subsection (a) of section 19a-490
21 of the general statutes, or a pharmacy in this state, as defined in section
22 20-571 of the general statutes, shall be eligible for reimbursement of
23 federal or state educational loans up to a maximum of two thousand
24 five hundred dollars per year for up to four years of such service.

25 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (b) and (c) of this
26 section, the combined dollar value of grants and loan reimbursements
27 shall not exceed twenty thousand dollars per student.

28 (e) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2002, and June 30, 2003, the
29 Department of Higher Education may use up to two per cent of the
30 funds appropriated for purposes of this section for program
31 administration, promotion, recruitment and retention activities that are
32 designed to increase the number of students pursuing nursing,
33 pharmacy and allied health careers at Connecticut institutions of
34 higher education or regional vocational-technical schools.

35 (f) Not later than January 1, 2004, the Commissioner of Higher
36 Education shall submit a status report in accordance with the
37 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes on the establishment
38 and operation of the incentive program authorized under this section
39 to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
40 cognizance of matters relating to education and public health and to
41 the select committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
42 matters relating to workforce development.

43 (g) For purposes of this section, "allied health education program"
44 means a program that qualifies a student to work as an allied health

45 professional, and "allied health professional" means a professional or
46 paraprofessional who is qualified by special training, education, skills
47 and experience in providing health care, treatment and diagnostic
48 services under the supervision of or in collaboration with a licensed
49 practitioner, and includes, but is not limited to, licensed nurses,
50 certified nurse assistants, home health aides, physician assistants,
51 technologists, therapists and technicians.

52 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a
53 Connecticut dental hygienist and dental assistant incentive program
54 administered by the Department of Higher Education.

55 (b) Within available appropriations, the program shall provide
56 grants to students enrolled in dental hygienist or dental assistant
57 education programs at any institution of higher education approved
58 by the Board of Governors of Higher Education or at any regional
59 vocational-technical school. No student shall receive a grant under the
60 program for more than two years. Maximum grants shall not exceed
61 five thousand dollars per year. The department shall ensure that at
62 least ten per cent of the grant recipients are minority students.

63 (c) A student who received grants under subsection (b) of this
64 section, and who is employed as a dental hygienist or dental assistant
65 at a public health facility in this state, as defined in section 20-126l of
66 the general statutes, as amended, shall be eligible for reimbursement of
67 federal or state educational loans up to a maximum of two thousand
68 five hundred dollars per year for up to four years of such service.

69 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (b) and (c) of this
70 section, the combined dollar value of grants and loan reimbursements
71 shall not exceed twenty thousand dollars per student.

72 (e) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2002, and June 30, 2003, the
73 Department of Higher Education may use up to two per cent of the
74 funds appropriated for purposes of this section for program
75 administration, promotion, recruitment and retention activities that are
76 designed to increase the number of students pursuing careers as dental

77 hygienists and dental assistants at Connecticut institutions of higher
78 education or regional vocational-technical schools.

79 (f) Not later than January 1, 2004, the Commissioner of Higher
80 Education shall submit a status report in accordance with the
81 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes on the establishment
82 and operation of the incentive program authorized under this section
83 to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
84 cognizance of matters relating to education and public health and to
85 the select committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
86 matters relating to workforce development.

87 (g) For purposes of this section, "dental hygienist education
88 program" includes any program of study or courses taken to earn a
89 degree or license as a dental hygienist or to upgrade knowledge and
90 skills as a dental hygienist, and "dental assistant education program"
91 includes any program of study or courses taken to earn a certificate as
92 a dental assistant or to upgrade knowledge and skills as a dental
93 assistant.

94 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Within available
95 appropriations, the Board of Governors of Higher Education, in
96 consultation with the State Dental Commission established under
97 section 20-103a of the general statutes, the Office of Workforce
98 Competitiveness, the Commissioner of Public Health, the Labor
99 Commissioner and the superintendent of the regional vocational-
100 technical school system, shall:

101 (1) Review, evaluate and recommend improvements for degree and
102 certification programs for the education and training of dental
103 hygienists and dental assistants in order to increase the number of
104 students who enter and successfully complete such programs;

105 (2) Develop an initiative to expand dental hygienist and dental
106 assistant academic programs to promote increased enrollment and
107 retention in such programs;

108 (3) Recruit students for dental hygienist and dental assistant
109 academic programs who have traditionally been underrepresented in
110 such occupations; and

111 (4) Explore distance learning and articulation agreements to
112 facilitate degree or certification enhancement activities for students
113 enrolled in dental hygienist and dental assistant academic programs.

114 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a
115 Connecticut radiological and laboratory technology incentive program
116 administered by the Department of Higher Education.

117 (b) Within available appropriations, the program shall provide
118 grants to students enrolled in radiological technology and laboratory
119 technology education programs at any institution of higher education
120 approved by the Board of Governors of Higher Education. No student
121 shall receive a grant under the program for more than two years.
122 Maximum grants shall not exceed five thousand dollars per year. The
123 department shall ensure that at least ten per cent of the grant recipients
124 are minority students.

125 (c) A student who received grants under subsection (b) of this
126 section, and who is employed in the field of radiological technology or
127 as a qualified laboratory technician in an acute care hospital in this
128 state or any other health care institution in this state, as defined in
129 subsection (a) of section 19a-490 of the general statutes, shall be eligible
130 for reimbursement of federal or state educational loans up to a
131 maximum of two thousand five hundred dollars per year for up to
132 four years of such service.

133 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (b) and (c) of this
134 section, the combined dollar value of grants and loan reimbursements
135 shall not exceed twenty thousand dollars per student.

136 (e) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2002, and June 30, 2003, the
137 Department of Higher Education may use up to two per cent of the
138 funds appropriated for purposes of this section for program

139 administration, promotion, recruitment and retention activities that are
140 designed to increase the number of students pursuing radiological
141 technology and laboratory technology careers at Connecticut
142 institutions of higher education.

143 (f) Not later than January 1, 2004, the Commissioner of Higher
144 Education shall submit a status report in accordance with the
145 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes on the establishment
146 and operation of the incentive program authorized under this section
147 to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
148 cognizance of matters relating to education and public health and to
149 the select committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
150 matters relating to workforce development.

151 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Within available
152 appropriations, the Department of Higher Education shall coordinate
153 with the Board of Trustees of the Community-Technical Colleges to
154 ensure that credit courses in radiological technology and laboratory
155 technology are offered in the state on a regional basis.

156 (b) Within available appropriations, the Board of Trustees of the
157 Community-Technical Colleges shall offer weekend and evening
158 courses in radiological technology and laboratory technology.

159 (c) The Office of Workforce Competitiveness, in conjunction with
160 the Labor Department, shall develop a strategy to encourage hospitals
161 in this state to establish hospital-based training programs in the areas
162 of radiological technology and laboratory technology which focus on
163 transitioning incumbent health care employees into such areas.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>

WFD	<i>Joint Favorable Subst. C/R</i>	PH
PH	<i>Joint Favorable C/R</i>	ED
ED	<i>Joint Favorable Subst.</i>	

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:

Fund-Type	Agency Affected	FY 03 \$	FY 04 \$	FY 05 \$
GF - Cost	UConn; Higher Ed., Dept.; Colleges, Regional Comm.-Tech.; CT State Univ.	765,000	1,657,500	2,486,250
GF - Cost	Workforce Competitiveness, Off.; Labor Dept.	Minimal	Minimal	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill would result in significant costs to the state. It establishes three incentive grant/loan repayment programs for individuals enrolled in or employed in the following areas: (1) nursing, pharmacy, and allied health; (2) dental hygiene and assistance; and (3) radiological and laboratory technology. The table below provides estimates of the costs associated with the bill based on the assumption that at least 50 new scholarships (\$5,000) per year would be granted in each area and that between 50-100 individuals would participate in the loan repayment program (\$2,500) each year. The Department of Higher Education (DHE) would be responsible for reporting on the status of the programs created in the bill.

Program	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05
Nursing, Pharmacy, Allied Health	\$250,000	\$500,000	\$750,000
Dental Hygiene & Assistance	\$250,000	\$500,000	\$750,000
Radiological & Laboratory Technology	\$250,000	\$500,000	\$750,000
Loan Repayment Program	-	\$125,000	\$187,500
Administration ¹	\$15,000	\$32,500	\$48,750
Total	\$765,000	\$1,657,500	\$2,486,250

In addition, the bill requires the Office of Workforce Competitiveness (OWC) and the Department of Labor (DOL) to review and evaluate degree programs for dental hygienists; develop an initiative to expand dental hygienist and dental assistant programs; recruit students for these programs; and explore distance learning and articulation agreements for students enrolled in these programs. It is anticipated that these responsibilities will require additional resources that are not currently within the current budgets of these agencies. Furthermore, the bill requires OWC and DOL to develop a strategy to encourage hospitals in the state to establish hospital-based training programs in the areas of radiological and laboratory technology.

The bill also requires the state's Regional Community-Technical College System to ensure that credit courses in radiological and laboratory technology are offered regionally, as well as on weekends and evenings. Only four of the community colleges in the state offer these courses currently and none offer them on the weekends. To the extent that programs and courses have to be developed to meet the requirements of the bill for accommodating this particular demand, the bill would result in future costs to the system. Finally, the bill may result in future costs to the Connecticut State University System and the University of Connecticut due to accommodating any increasing

¹ The bill provides that DHE can use 2% of the funds appropriated for program administration. It is anticipated that once individuals are made aware of the grant and loan repayment opportunities as described in the bill, more funds will be needed for administration. The estimate is only based on 2% of the program appropriation as developed for the purpose of this fiscal note. Administration would include staffing and promotion.

demand for programs and courses created by the incentives in this bill.

OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 367

AN ACT ADDRESSING THE SHORTAGE OF NURSES, PHARMACISTS, ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS, DENTAL HYGIENISTS AND DENTAL ASSISTANTS**SUMMARY:**

This bill establishes incentive grants to encourage students to enter the fields of (1) nursing, (2) pharmacy, (3) allied health, (4) dental hygiene, (5) dental assistance, (6) radiological technology, and (7) laboratory technology. It allows them to qualify for loan reimbursement if they work in certain Connecticut medical facilities after they get their degree or certificate. It requires the higher education commissioner to report to the Education, Public Health, and Workforce Development committees on the programs' status. The bill also requires the state's higher education authorities to expand and improve their dental hygienist, dental assistant, radiological technician, and laboratory technician programs.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

The bill establishes (1) nursing, pharmacy, and allied health profession; (2) dental hygienist and dental assistant; and (3) radiological and laboratory technology incentive programs, which it requires the Department of Higher Education (DHE) to administer. The bill requires the programs, within available appropriations, to provide grants to students in these programs at colleges and universities the Board of Governors of Higher Education (BOG) approves, or at regional vocational-technical (V-T) schools for the nursing, pharmacy, allied health, and dental programs. The bill prohibits any student from receiving a grant for more than two years, and limits maximum yearly grants to \$5,000. Students in the nursing, pharmacy, and allied health profession program completing their program requirements as graduate students may also participate, if they received their first grant as an undergraduate. The bill requires DHE to ensure that at least 10% of the grant recipients in each program are minority students, and specifies that those entering the nursing, pharmacy, and allied health

profession program be transferring from Connecticut community-technical colleges (CTCs).

The bill defines an "allied health professional" as a professional or paraprofessional qualified by special training education, skills, and experience in providing (1) health care, (2) treatment, and (3) diagnostic services, under the supervision of or in collaboration with a licensed practitioner. These include: (1) licensed nurses, (2) certified nurse assistants, (3) home health aides, (4) physician assistants, (5) technologists, (6) therapists, and (7) technicians. It defines "dental hygienist education program" and "dental assistant education program" as programs of study or courses a student takes to (1) earn a degree or license or (2) upgrade knowledge and skills as a dental hygienist or dental assistant.

The bill allows a student receiving these grants and working as a nurse, pharmacist, allied health professional, radiological technician, or qualified laboratory technician in a Connecticut (1) acute care hospital, (2) health care institution, such as a hospital, nursing home, or substance abuse treatment facility, (3) pharmacy (for pharmacists), or (4) public health facility (for dental hygienists and dental assistants) to be eligible to have the state reimburse his federal or state student loans up to \$2,500 per year for up to four years of service. But it prohibits a student from receiving more than \$20,000 in total grants and loan reimbursements.

For FY 2001-02 and FY 2002-03, the bill allows DHE to use up to 2% of its incentive program funds for administration, promotion, recruitment, and retention activities aimed at increasing the number of students pursuing nursing, pharmacy, allied health, dental hygienist, dental assistant, radiological technology, and laboratory technology careers at V-T schools and Connecticut colleges and universities. It requires the higher education commissioner to submit a report on the programs' status to the Education, Public Health, and Workforce Development committees by January 1, 2004.

DENTAL HYGIENIST AND DENTAL ASSISTANT PROGRAMS

The bill requires the BOG, in consultation with the (1) State Dental Commission, (2) Office of Workforce Competitiveness (OWC), (3) public health and labor commissioners, and (4) V-T system superintendent and within available appropriations, to:

1. review, evaluate, and recommend improvements for degree and certification programs for educating and training dental hygienists and dental assistants to increase the number of students entering and completing these programs;
2. develop an initiative to expand academic programs to increase enrollment and retention in dental hygienist and dental assistant programs;
3. recruit traditionally underrepresented students into these fields; and
4. explore distance learning and articulation agreements to make degree or certification enhancement activities available to students in these programs.

RADIOLOGICAL TECHNOLOGY AND LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS

The bill requires DHE to coordinate with the CTCs' board of trustees to ensure that they offer, within available appropriations, radiological and laboratory technology credit courses regionally. It also requires the board of trustees to offer evening and weekend courses. The bill requires OWC to work with the labor department to develop strategies to encourage Connecticut hospitals to establish hospital-based training programs in these fields that focus on transitioning current health care workers into them.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Select Committee on Workforce Development

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference

Yea 11 Nay 0

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 25 Nay 0

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 29 Nay 0

