



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 400

February Session, 2004

Substitute Senate Bill No. 515

Senate, April 1, 2004

The Committee on Public Health reported through SEN. MURPHY of the 16th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT ADDRESSING THE NURSING SHORTAGE.

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 faculty incentive program administered by the
3 Office of Workforce Competitiveness.

4 (b) Within available appropriations, the program shall provide
5 grants to institutions of higher education that work collaboratively
6 with hospitals, as defined in section 19a-490 of the general statutes, to
7 (1) establish or expand nursing education programs designed to
8 qualify a person who successfully completes such program to teach or
9 train nursing students enrolled in a program leading to a bachelor's
10 degree in nursing or certification to work as a registered nurse, or (2)
11 encourage persons employed by hospitals or in other industries who
12 are qualified to teach or train nursing students enrolled in a program
13 leading to a bachelor's degree in nursing or certification to work as a
14 registered nurse to serve as full-time or part-time faculty members at

15 institutions of higher education.

16 (c) Not later than January 1, 2006, the Office of Workforce
17 Competitiveness shall submit a status report, in accordance with the
18 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the establishment
19 and operation of the incentive program authorized under this section
20 to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
21 cognizance of matters relating to education, public health and higher
22 education and employment advancement.

23 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Department of Higher
24 Education shall conduct an assessment of the current and future
25 capacity of the state system of higher education to educate and train
26 students seeking to earn a bachelor's degree in nursing or seeking to
27 become a licensed practical nurse or registered nurse. Such assessment
28 shall include an examination of (1) the number of faculty members
29 employed by each institution of higher education that are qualified to
30 teach such students, (2) the number of nursing students that can be
31 accommodated by each institution of higher education, (3) the number
32 of nursing students admitted to each institution of higher education,
33 (4) the number of nursing students that have graduated from each
34 institution of higher education with a bachelor's, master's or doctoral
35 degree in nursing, and (5) any barriers to graduation for nursing
36 students enrolled at an institution of higher education.

37 (b) Not later than January 5, 2005, the Commissioner of Higher
38 Education shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of
39 section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the results of such assessment
40 to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
41 cognizance of matters relating to public health and higher education
42 and employment advancement.

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

HED *Joint Favorable Subst. C/R*

PH

PH *Joint Favorable*

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:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 05 \$	FY 06 \$
Higher Ed., Dept.	GF - None	None	
Workforce Competitiveness, Off.	GF - See Below	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill establishes a nursing faculty incentive program within the Office of Workforce Competitiveness (OWC). sHB 5033 "AA Making Adjustments to the State Budget for the Biennium Budget Ending June 30, 2005 and Making Appropriations Therefor" (as favorably reported by the Appropriations Committee) does not include funding for this grant program. The bill allows the establishment of the grant program "within available appropriations." With passage of the bill, OWC would either (1) re-allocate existing funding for this purpose from another program; (2) incur additional costs; or (3) not implement this program due to lack of funding. In addition, providing a status report on the program would not result in the need for additional resources.

The bill also requires the Department of Higher Education to submit a report on the current and future capacity of the state higher education system to train nurses. Passage of this provision of the bill would not result in the need for additional resources.

OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 515

AN ACT ADDRESSING THE NURSING SHORTAGE**SUMMARY:**

This bill establishes a Connecticut nursing faculty incentive program to be administered by the Office of Workforce Competitiveness (OWC). The program must provide grants, within available funds, to higher education institutions that work with hospitals to:

1. establish or expand nursing education programs that qualify people to teach or train nursing students enrolled in a bachelors or registered nurse certification program or
2. encourage those who already have those qualifications to serve as full- or part-time faculty members at these institutions.

The OWC must submit a status report on the incentive program to the Education, Public Health, and Higher Education and Employment Advancement committees by January 1, 2006.

The bill also requires the higher education commissioner to report to the Public Health and Higher Education and Employment Advancement committees by January 1, 2005 on her department's assessment of the current and future capacity of the state higher education system to educate and train nurses. For each higher education institution, the assessment must include: (1) the number of qualified faculty, (2) capacity for nursing students, (3) the number of nursing students admitted, (4) the number graduating with a nursing degree, and (5) any barrier to graduation faced by nursing students.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND**OWC**

OWC is the governor's principal workforce development policy advisor, and it acts as a liaison between the governor and other

government entities for workforce development matters. It coordinates the state's implementation of the 1998 federal Workforce Investment Act and establishes related methods and procedures. It also coordinates state agencies' workforce development activities.

Related Bills

sSB 519, favorably reported by the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee, establishes a Connecticut Allied Health Workforce Policy Board to monitor data trends in the allied health workforce, including recruiting and utilizing retired nursing faculty to train students to become LPNs or RNs. The bill was referred to the Public Health committee, which favorably reported it on March 18.

sHB 5571, also reported by the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee on March 9, establishes a Connecticut Nursing Incentive program administered by the Department of Education. The bill was referred to the Labor and Public Employees committee, which favorably reported it on March 16.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference
Yea 20 Nay 0

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Report
Yea 22 Nay 0