



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 401

February Session, 2004

Substitute Senate Bill No. 519

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 CONCERNING ALLIED HEALTH WORKFORCE NEEDS.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2004*) (a) There is established a
2 Connecticut Allied Health Workforce Policy Board which shall act in
3 coordination with the Connecticut Career Advisory Committee
4 established pursuant to section 1 of public act 03-142 to: (1) Monitor
5 data and trends in the allied health workforce, including, but not
6 limited to, (A) the state's current and future supply and demand for
7 allied health professionals, and (B) the current and future capacity of
8 the state system of higher education to educate and train students
9 pursuing allied health professions; (2) develop recommendations for
10 the formation and promotion of an economic cluster, as defined in
11 section 32-4e of the general statutes, for allied health professions; (3)
12 identify recruitment and retention strategies for state institutions of
13 higher education with allied health programs; (4) develop
14 recommendations for promoting diversity in the allied health
15 workforce, including, but not limited to, racial, ethnic and gender

16 diversity and for enhancing the attractiveness of allied health
17 professions; (5) develop recommendations regarding financial and
18 other assistance to students enrolled in or considering enrolling in
19 allied health programs offered at public institutions of higher
20 education; (6) identify recruitment and retention strategies for allied
21 health employers; (7) develop recommendations about recruiting and
22 utilizing retired nursing faculty members to teach or train students to
23 become licensed practical nurses or registered nurses; and (8) examine
24 nursing programs at public institutions of higher education and
25 develop recommendations about the possibility of streamlining the
26 curricula offered in such programs to facilitate timely program
27 completion. For purposes of this section, "allied health workforce" and
28 "allied health professionals" means professionals or paraprofessionals
29 who are qualified by special training, education, skills and experience
30 in providing health care, treatment and diagnostic services, under the
31 supervision of or in collaboration with a licensed practitioner, and
32 includes, but is not limited to, physician assistants, registered nurses,
33 licensed practical nurses, certified nurse assistants, home health aides
34 and qualified radiologists, technologists, therapists and technicians.

35 (b) The board shall consist of the following members:

36 (1) A member appointed by the speaker of the House of
37 Representatives;

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

39 (3) A member appointed by the minority leader of the House of
40 Representatives;

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

42 (5) The Commissioners of Public Health, Education and Higher
43 Education, or their designees;

44 (6) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing
45 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
46 relating to public health and higher education and employment

47 advancement, or their designees; and

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

51 (c) Any member appointed pursuant to subsection (b) of this section
52 shall be a recognized expert in the field of allied health, finance,
53 economics or health facility management. All appointments to the
54 board shall be made no later than thirty days after the effective date of
55 this section. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.
56 The term of each appointed member of the board shall be three years
57 from the date of appointment. The board shall select a chairperson
58 from among its members. Members of the board shall serve without
59 compensation but shall, within available appropriations, be
60 reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of
61 their duties. The board shall convene its first meeting not later than
62 sixty days after the effective date of this section.

63 (d) Not later than January 1, 2006, and annually thereafter, the
64 board shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations,
65 including recommendations for legislation to address allied health
66 workforce shortages in this state, to the joint standing committees of
67 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public
68 health and higher education and employment advancement, in
69 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	October 1, 2004

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 \$
Legislative Mgmt.	GF - Cost	Minimal	Minimal
Departments of Public Health, Education and Higher Education	GF - Cost	None	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

Establishing a Connecticut Allied Health Workforce Policy Board will result in a minimal cost to the Joint Committee on Legislative Management, as members will be entitled to reimbursement of necessary expenses incurred. The bill specifies that these reimbursements are to be within available appropriations.

It is anticipated that representatives of the Departments of Education, Higher Education and Public Health can participate as members of the Board within each agency’s respective anticipated budgetary resources.

OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 519

AN ACT CONCERNING ALLIED HEALTH WORKFORCE NEEDS**SUMMARY:**

This bill establishes a 16-member Connecticut Allied Health Workforce Policy Board to work with the Connecticut Career Ladder Advisory Committee and specifies its responsibilities.

The board must report its findings and recommendations, including recommendations for legislation to address allied health workforce shortages in Connecticut, to the Public Health and Higher Education and Employment Advancement committees by January 1, 2006 and annually afterwards.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2004

POLICY BOARD

The board must:

1. monitor data and trends in the allied health workforce, including the state's current and future supply and demand for allied health professionals, and the public higher education system's current and future capacity to educate and train students pursuing allied health professions;
2. recommend ways to form and promote economic clusters for these professions;
3. identify recruitment and retention strategies for (a) public higher education institutions that have allied health programs and (b) allied health employers;
4. recommend ways to enhance the professions' attractiveness of the and promote diversity in the allied health workforce, including racial, ethnic, and gender diversity;

5. recommend financial and other assistance for students enrolled or thinking of enrolling in allied health programs offered at public higher education institutions;
6. make recommendations for recruiting and using retired nursing faculty members to teach or train students to become practical or registered nurses; and
7. examine nursing programs at public higher education institutions and make recommendations about the possibility of streamlining the programs' curricula to facilitate timely program completion.

Membership

The board consists of the Education, Higher Education, and Public Health commissioners; the chairpersons and ranking members of the Public Health and Higher Education and Employment Advancement committees or their designees; a representative of the Connecticut State Board of Examiners for Nursing, appointed by the board; and one member each appointed by the House speaker, Senate president pro tempore, and House, and Senate minority leaders.

Members must be appointed by October 31, 2004. Appointed members must be experts in allied health, finance, economics, or health facility management. The board must convene its first meeting by November 30, and it must select one of its members as chairman. Members serve without compensation but must be reimbursed, within available appropriations, for necessary expenses they incur performing their duties.

Members serve three-year terms. Appointing authorities must fill vacancies.

ALLIED HEALTH WORKFORCE AND ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

The bill defines "allied health workforce" and "allied health professionals" as professionals or paraprofessionals qualified by special training, education, skills, and experience in providing health care, treatment, and diagnostic services under the supervision of or in collaboration with a licensed practitioner. They include physician

assistants; registered nurses; licensed practical nurses; certified nurse assistants; home health aides; and qualified radiologists, technologists, therapists, and technicians.

BACKGROUND

Connecticut Career Advisory Committee

PA 03-142 required the Office of Workforce Competitiveness (OWC) to establish this committee to promote new, and enhance existing, career ladder programs for occupations in the state with a projected worker shortage, based on the office's forecast.

The act defines "career ladder" as any continuum of education and training that leads to a credential, certificate, license, or degree and results in career advancement or the potential to earn higher wages in an occupation with a projected workforce shortage forecasted by OWC.

Economic Cluster

An economic cluster is a group of industries linked together through customer, supplier, or other relationships (CGS § 32-4e).

Related Bills

sSB 515, reported favorably by the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee on March 9 and the Public Health Committee on March 18, establishes a Connecticut Nursing Faculty Incentive Program to provide grants, within available appropriations, to higher education institutions that work with hospitals to establish or expand nursing programs that qualify people to teach or train students enrolled in B.A. or registered nurse certification programs or (2) encourage those already qualified to serve as full- or part-time faculty at higher education institutions.

sHB 5571, reported favorably by the Higher Education Committee on March 9 and the Public Health Committee on March 16, establishes a nursing incentive program administered by the Education Department.

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