



General Assembly

February Session, 2004

Raised Bill No. 519

LCO No. 1977

01977_____HED

Referred to Committee on Higher Education and Employment
Advancement

Introduced by:
(HED)

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 Health Care Workforce Policy Board which shall: (1)
3 Monitor data and trends in the health care workforce; (2) develop and
4 implement a plan to promote recruitment and retention of healthcare
5 workers in workforce shortage areas, as determined by the board; (3)
6 make recommendations about approaches to promote diversity in the
7 health care workforce, including, but not limited to, racial, ethnic and
8 gender diversity and to enhance the attractiveness of health care
9 professions; (4) develop recommendations regarding financial and
10 other assistance to students pursuing careers in health care; and (5)
11 identify retention strategies for health care employers. For purposes of
12 this section, "health care workforce" and "health care workers" means
13 professionals or paraprofessionals who are qualified by special
14 training, education, skills and experience in providing health care,
15 treatment and diagnostic services, under the supervision of or in
16 collaboration with a licensed practitioner, and includes, but is not

17 limited to, licensed nurses, certified nurse assistants, home health
18 aides, physician assistants, and qualified technologists, therapists and
19 technicians.

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

21 (1) A member appointed by the speaker of the House of
22 Representatives;

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

24 (3) A member appointed by the minority leader of the House of
25 Representatives;

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

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

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

30 (7) The chairpersons of the joint standing committees of the General
31 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health and
32 higher education and employment advancement, or their designees;
33 and

34 (8) A representative of the Connecticut State Board of Examiners for
35 Nursing, established under section 20-88 of the general statutes, who
36 shall be appointed by said board.

37 (c) Any member appointed pursuant to subsection (b) of this section
38 shall be a recognized expert in the field of health care, finance,
39 economics or health facility management. All appointments to the
40 board shall be made no later than thirty days after the effective date of
41 this section. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.
42 The term of each appointed member of the board shall be three years
43 from the date of appointment. The board shall select a chairperson
44 from among its members. Members of the board shall serve without

45 compensation but shall, within available appropriations, be
46 reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of
47 their duties. The board shall convene its first meeting not later than
48 sixty days after the effective date of this section.

49 (d) Not later than January 1, 2006, and annually thereafter, the
50 board shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations,
51 including recommendations for legislation to address health care
52 workforce shortages in this state, to the joint standing committees of
53 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public
54 health and higher education and employment advancement, in
55 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2004</i>

Statement of Purpose:

To address the state's shortage of allied health professionals.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]