



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 519

February Session, 2004

* _____SB00519GAE____043004_____*

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	<i>October 1, 2004</i>

HED *Joint Favorable Subst. C/R* PH
PH *Joint Favorable*
ED *Joint Favorable*
LM *Joint Favorable*
GAE *Joint Favorable*