



General Assembly

February Session, 2006

**Raised Bill No. 5619**

LCO No. 2340

\*02340\_\_\_\_\_HED\*

Referred to Committee on Higher Education and Employment  
Advancement

Introduced by:  
(HED)

**AN ACT CONCERNING NURSING SHORTAGES AND LOAN  
REPAYMENT FOR NURSES.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 10a-19c of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2006*):

3 (a) There is established a Connecticut nursing incentive program  
4 administered by the Department of Higher Education.

5 (b) The department shall provide financial assistance to (1) up to  
6 four regional community-technical colleges that enter into  
7 partnerships with hospitals, as defined in section 19a-490, as amended,  
8 or other health care institutions, as defined in said section 19a-490, as  
9 amended, and (2) independent institutions of higher education that  
10 enter into such partnerships in order to secure nonstate funding to  
11 increase the number of faculty members such regional community-  
12 technical colleges and independent institutions of higher education  
13 that are qualified to teach or train students to become registered  
14 nurses.

15 (c) A regional community-technical college or an independent  
16 institution of higher education seeking such assistance shall submit to  
17 the Department of Higher Education its nursing faculty expansion  
18 plan, together with a commitment agreement signed by its hospital or  
19 health care institution partner or partners and information on the  
20 amount of nonstate funding secured by the partnership. Assistance  
21 provided by the department to a regional community-technical college  
22 or an independent institution of higher education (1) may be provided  
23 for up to two years in accordance with this subsection, and (2) shall not  
24 exceed (A) seventy-five thousand dollars per year, or (B) the annual  
25 amount of nonstate funding secured by the partnership, whichever is  
26 less. In determining whether to provide assistance pursuant to this  
27 section for a second year, the department shall consider the success of  
28 the nursing faculty expansion plan, as measured by factors including,  
29 but not limited to, the number of persons teaching or providing  
30 training to nursing students pursuant to the nursing faculty expansion  
31 program and the number of students graduating from nursing  
32 programs.

33 (d) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2005, and June 30, 2006, the  
34 Department of Higher Education may use up to two per cent of the  
35 funds appropriated for purposes of this section for program  
36 administration.

37 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 19a-7d of the general statutes is  
38 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
39 *1, 2006*):

40 (a) The Commissioner of Public Health may establish, within  
41 available appropriations, a program to provide three-year grants to  
42 community-based providers of primary care services in order to  
43 expand access to health care for the uninsured. The grants may be  
44 awarded to community-based providers of primary care for (1)  
45 funding for direct services, (2) recruitment and retention of primary  
46 care clinicians and registered nurses through subsidizing of salaries or

47 through a loan repayment program, and (3) capital expenditures. The  
48 community-based providers of primary care under the direct service  
49 program shall provide, or arrange access to, primary and preventive  
50 services, referrals to specialty services, including rehabilitative and  
51 mental health services, inpatient care, prescription drugs, basic  
52 diagnostic laboratory services, health education and outreach to alert  
53 people to the availability of services. Primary care clinicians and  
54 registered nurses participating in the state loan repayment program or  
55 receiving subsidies shall provide services to the uninsured based on a  
56 sliding fee schedule, provide free care if necessary, accept Medicare  
57 assignment and participate as a Medicaid provider, or provide part-  
58 time nursing services in school-based health centers. The  
59 commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance with the  
60 provisions of chapter 54, to establish eligibility criteria, services to be  
61 provided by participants, the sliding fee schedule, reporting  
62 requirements and the loan repayment program. For the purposes of  
63 this section, "primary care clinicians" includes family practice  
64 physicians, general practice osteopaths, obstetricians and  
65 gynecologists, internal medicine physicians, pediatricians, dentists,  
66 certified nurse midwives, advanced practice registered nurses,  
67 physician assistants and dental hygienists.

68 Sec. 3. (*Effective July 1, 2006*) The sum of \_\_\_\_ dollars is appropriated  
69 to the Department of Higher Education, from the General Fund, for the  
70 fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, for the purpose of extending the  
71 nursing incentive program to independent institutions of higher  
72 education.

73 Sec. 4. (*Effective July 1, 2006*) The sum of \_\_\_\_ dollars is appropriated  
74 to the Department of Public Health, from the General Fund, for the  
75 fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, for the purpose of extending the  
76 primary care direct services loan repayment program to part-time  
77 nurses in school-based health centers.

78 Sec. 5. (*Effective July 1, 2006*) The sum of \_\_\_\_ dollars is appropriated

79 to the Regional Community-Technical Colleges, from the General  
80 Fund, for Operating Expenses, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007,  
81 and \_\_\_dollars of such amount shall be used for the purpose of  
82 doubling the number of students enrolled in training programs for  
83 registered nurses.

84 Sec. 6. (*Effective July 1, 2006*) The sum of \_\_\_ dollars is appropriated  
85 to the Department of Education, from the General Fund, for the fiscal  
86 year ending June 30, 2007, and \_\_\_dollars of such amount shall be  
87 used for the purpose of doubling the number of students enrolled in  
88 the Licensed Practical Nurse Education Program of the Vocational-  
89 Technical High School System.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	10a-19c
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	19a-7d(a)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To address the current nursing shortage by increasing funding for state nursing education and nursing loan repayment programs.

*[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.]*