



House of Representatives

File No. 884

General Assembly

January Session, 2007

(Reprint of File No. 695)

Substitute House Bill No. 5751
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 29, 2007

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PILOT FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER
TRAINING PROGRAM.**

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (Effective October 1, 2007) (a) The Department of
2 Social Services shall, within available appropriations and in
3 consultation with the Department of Public Health, establish a pilot
4 training program for nurse practitioners seeking to specialize in family
5 practice to receive one year of formal training at a community-based
6 health center located in an area designated by the federal Health
7 Resources and Services Administration as a health professional
8 shortage area, a medically underserved area or an area with medically
9 underserved populations.

10 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services, in consultation with the
11 Commissioner of Public Health, shall establish eligibility requirements
12 for participation in the program.

13 (c) The pilot program shall commence on or before October 1, 2008,
14 and shall terminate not later than October 1, 2010.

15 (d) The Commissioner of Social Services shall report, in accordance
16 with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing
17 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
18 relating to social services and public health not later than January 1,
19 2011, concerning any increase in access to care at community-based
20 health centers as a result of such pilot program.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	New section

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 chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 08 \$	FY 09 \$
Department of Social Services	GF - Cost	Indeterminate	Indeterminate

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill as amended requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to establish the pilot training program for nurse practitioners seeking to specialize in family practice. This results in an indeterminate cost to the DSS, continuing through 10/1/10. Exact costs cannot be determined, since it is unknown how many nurses would participate.

No funding has been included within sHB 7077, as favorably reported, for purposes of the pilot program. Should no appropriation be included within the enacted FY 08-09 Biennial Budget, the requirement that it be developed within available appropriations would likely result in one of four outcomes: (1) DSS will proceed with the project, and will require a deficiency appropriation; (2) DSS will delay the implementation of the project pending the approval of additional appropriations to meet this mandate in future fiscal years; (3) DSS will shift resources from other department priorities, thereby impacting existing departmental programs; or (4) DSS will not implement the pilot program.

House "A" struck the underlying bill, and resulted in the fiscal impact noted above.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5751 (as amended by House "A")******AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PILOT FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER TRAINING PROGRAM.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Department of Social Services (DSS), within available appropriations and in consultation with the Department of Public Health (DPH), to establish a pilot training program for nurse practitioners seeking to specialize in family practice. Under the program, the nurse practitioner receives one year of formal training at a community-based health center in a federally designated health professional shortage area, medically underserved area (MUA), or area with medically underserved populations (MUP).

The DSS commissioner, in consultation with the DPH commissioner, must establish program eligibility requirements. The pilot program must begin by October 1, 2008 and end by October 1, 2010.

DSS must report to the Social Services (presumably the Human Services committee) and Public Health committees by January 1, 2011 on any increase in access to care at community-based health centers as a result of the pilot program.

*House Amendment "A" (1) requires DSS, instead of the Department of Higher Education as in the original bill, to establish the program, and (2) makes program establishment subject to available appropriations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2007

BACKGROUND

Nurse Practitioners

A nurse practitioner is a registered nurse who has completed advanced education (generally a minimum of a master's degree) and training in the diagnosis and management of common medical conditions, including chronic illnesses. Nurse practitioners provide a broad range of health care services.

Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA), MUA, and MUP

The federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) develops health workforce shortage designation criteria to help determine whether a geographic area or population group is an HPSA, MUA, or MUP.

HPSAs may have shortages of primary medical care, dental, or mental health providers and may be urban or rural areas, population groups, or medical or other public facilities.

MUAs may be a whole county or group of contiguous counties, a group of county or civil divisions, or a group of urban census tracts where residents have a shortage of personal health services.

MUPs may include a group of people who face economic, cultural, or linguistic barriers to health care.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference
Yea 27 Nay 0 (03/21/2007)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 47 Nay 0 (04/19/2007)

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 14 Nay 0 (05/09/2007)