



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 470

February Session, 2008

* _____SB00470HED__031108_____*

AN ACT CONCERNING THE SHORTAGE OF NURSING AND ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) (a) The Board of Governors
2 of Higher Education, in consultation with the Commissioner of Public
3 Health, the State Board of Examiners for Nursing and the Connecticut
4 Allied Health Workforce Policy Board, shall establish, within available
5 appropriations, a faculty scholarship for service program to encourage
6 state residents to become a qualified faculty member of a nursing or
7 other allied health education program within the state. The program
8 shall provide, within available appropriations, grants to state residents
9 to cover the costs of tuition, fees and books in exchange for service as
10 an allied health faculty member at an institution of higher education
11 within the state. To be eligible for the program, a candidate shall: (1) Be
12 enrolled in a graduate program of an institution of higher education
13 leading to a master's or doctoral degree in a field that qualifies such
14 person to teach in a nursing or other allied health education program
15 within the state, and (2) commit to teaching in a nursing or other allied
16 health education program, upon graduation from such program,
17 within the state for a period of time to be determined by the
18 Commissioner of Higher Education. For the purposes of this section,
19 "allied health faculty member" means a faculty member qualified by
20 special training, education, skills and experience to provide instruction

21 in a health-related program, including, but not limited to, nursing,
22 physical therapy, dental hygiene, physician assistant, radiation
23 therapy, radiologic technology, occupational therapy, cardiovascular
24 technology, cardiovascular perfusion, nuclear medicine technology,
25 respiratory care and surgical technology.

26 (b) The Department of Higher Education shall develop additional
27 eligibility requirements for recipients, which may include income
28 guidelines, publish criteria and make available application forms to
29 implement the program in accordance with this section.

30 (c) The Board of Governors of Higher Education, after consultation
31 with the Commissioner of Public Health, the State Board of Examiners
32 for Nursing and the Connecticut Allied Health Workforce Policy
33 Board, shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54 of the
34 general statutes, to implement the program, including establishing (1)
35 the period of time a recipient must commit to teaching pursuant to
36 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section, (2) additional eligibility
37 requirements pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, and (3)
38 procedures for administration of the program.

39 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) (a) The Board of Governors of
40 Higher Education, in consultation with the Commissioner of Public
41 Health, the State Board of Examiners for Nursing and the Connecticut
42 Allied Health Workforce Policy Board, shall establish, within available
43 appropriations, a program for the forgiveness of loans provided by the
44 state to residents for nursing or allied health education who become a
45 faculty member of a nursing or allied health education program within
46 the state. The loan shall be forgiven if the resident remains as a faculty
47 member of a nursing or allied health education program in the state for
48 five consecutive years. For purposes of this section, (1) "nursing or
49 allied health education" includes any health-related program of study
50 and courses for entry to or advancement in a health-related profession
51 or to upgrade knowledge and skills for such profession, and (2)
52 "health-related" includes, but is not limited to, nursing, physical
53 therapy, dental hygiene, physician assistant, radiation therapy,

54 radiologic technology, occupational therapy, cardiovascular
55 technology, cardiovascular perfusion, nuclear medicine technology,
56 respiratory care and surgical technology.

57 (b) The Department of Higher Education shall publish criteria and
58 make available application forms to implement the loan forgiveness
59 program in accordance with this section.

60 (c) The Board of Governors of Higher Education, after consultation
61 with the Commissioner of Public Health, the State Board of Examiners
62 for Nursing and the Connecticut Allied Health Workforce Policy
63 Board, shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54 of the
64 general statutes, to establish procedures to administer the program for
65 the forgiveness of loans provided by the state to residents for nursing
66 or allied health education within the state who become a qualified
67 faculty member of a nursing or allied health education program in the
68 state as described in this section.

69 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) (a) There is established a
70 Connecticut allied health faculty incentive program administered by
71 the Office of Workforce Competitiveness.

72 (b) The program shall provide, within available appropriations,
73 grants to institutions of higher education that work collaboratively
74 with hospitals, as defined in section 19a-490 of the 2008 supplement to
75 the general statutes, to (1) establish or expand allied health education
76 programs designed to qualify a person who successfully completes
77 such program to teach or train allied health students enrolled in an
78 allied health program leading to a bachelor's degree or certification, or
79 (2) encourage persons employed by hospitals or in other industries,
80 who are qualified to teach or train students enrolled in an allied health
81 program leading to a bachelor's degree or certification, to serve as full-
82 time or part-time faculty members at institutions of higher education.

83 Sec. 4. (*Effective from passage*) The Department of Higher Education
84 shall conduct a review of nursing and allied health facilities in order to
85 assess capacity and determine the need for classrooms and laboratory

86 expansion. Not later than January 1, 2009, the Department of Higher
87 Education shall submit a report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the
88 general statutes, on the findings of such review to the joint standing
89 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
90 relating to higher education and employment advancement.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section

HED *Joint Favorable Subst.*