



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

**Raised Bill No. 6674**

LCO No. 4664

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Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:  
(PH)

**AN ACT CONCERNING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND  
IMPROVED ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE SERVICES.**

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Department of Public  
2 Health, in collaboration with the Department of Higher Education, the  
3 Labor Department, the Office of Workforce Competitiveness, The  
4 University of Connecticut, The University of Connecticut School of  
5 Medicine, The University of Connecticut School of Dentistry, the  
6 Connecticut State University System and the Community-Technical  
7 Colleges, shall develop an initiative to address the state's health care  
8 workforce shortage. Such initiative shall seek to increase the number of  
9 health care workers in the state through the offering of expanded and  
10 enhanced educational programs at public institutions of higher  
11 education. The program shall include, but not be limited to, the  
12 following: (1) Expansion of existing health care related academic  
13 programs to promote increased enrollment and retention of students in  
14 such programs; (2) development of alternative academic programs that  
15 are designed to assimilate displaced workers and other individuals  
16 who seek to make a career change into the health care workforce; (3)

17 recruitment and retention of underserved populations into the health  
18 care workforce; (4) development of distance learning initiatives; and  
19 (5) development of on-the-job training initiatives that are designed to  
20 provide valuable work experience to those receiving the training and  
21 assist in alleviating health care workforce shortages, particularly in  
22 areas of the state with underserved populations.

23 (b) Not later than January 1, 2011, the Commissioner of Public  
24 Health shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a  
25 of the general statutes, on the initiative to the joint standing  
26 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
27 relating to higher education and employment advancement, public  
28 health and labor and public employees.

29 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 20-87a of the general statutes is  
30 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
31 *October 1, 2009*):

32 (b) Advanced nursing practice is defined as the performance of  
33 advanced level nursing practice activities that, by virtue of postbasic  
34 specialized education and experience, are appropriate to and may be  
35 performed by an advanced practice registered nurse. The advanced  
36 practice registered nurse performs acts of diagnosis and treatment of  
37 alterations in health status, as described in subsection (a) of this  
38 section, and [shall collaborate] works collaboratively with [a physician  
39 licensed to practice medicine in this state] other health care providers  
40 licensed to practice in this state. In all settings, the advanced practice  
41 registered nurse may [, in collaboration with a physician licensed to  
42 practice medicine in this state,] prescribe, dispense and administer  
43 medical therapeutics and corrective measures and may request, sign  
44 for, receive and dispense drugs in the form of professional samples in  
45 accordance with sections 20-14c to 20-14e, inclusive. [except that an  
46 advanced practice registered nurse licensed pursuant to section 20-94a  
47 and maintaining current certification from the American Association of  
48 Nurse Anesthetists who is prescribing and administrating medical

49 therapeutics during surgery may only do so if the physician who is  
50 medically directing the prescriptive activity is physically present in the  
51 institution, clinic or other setting where the surgery is being  
52 performed. For purposes of this subsection, "collaboration" means a  
53 mutually agreed upon relationship between an advanced practice  
54 registered nurse and a physician who is educated, trained or has  
55 relevant experience that is related to the work of such advanced  
56 practice registered nurse. The collaboration shall address a reasonable  
57 and appropriate level of consultation and referral, coverage for the  
58 patient in the absence of the advanced practice registered nurse, a  
59 method to review patient outcomes and a method of disclosure of the  
60 relationship to the patient. Relative to the exercise of prescriptive  
61 authority, the collaboration between an advanced practice registered  
62 nurse and a physician shall be in writing and shall address the level of  
63 schedule II and III controlled substances that the advanced practice  
64 registered nurse may prescribe and provide a method to review  
65 patient outcomes, including, but not limited to, the review of medical  
66 therapeutics, corrective measures, laboratory tests and other diagnostic  
67 procedures that the advanced practice registered nurse may prescribe,  
68 dispense and administer.] An advanced practice registered nurse  
69 licensed under the provisions of this chapter may make the  
70 determination and pronouncement of death of a patient, provided the  
71 advanced practice registered nurse attests to such pronouncement on  
72 the certificate of death and signs the certificate of death no later than  
73 twenty-four hours after the pronouncement.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	20-87a(b)

**Statement of Purpose:**

To develop an academic initiative that addresses the critical shortage of nursing and health care professionals in the state.

*[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.]*