



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Raised Bill No. 1228

LCO No. 6028



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:
(PH)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE'S HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE.

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Education, in
2 consultation with the Labor Commissioner and Commissioner of Public
3 Health, shall study the feasibility of establishing an interdistrict magnet
4 school program that provides education and training to students
5 interested in health care professions. The program shall provide
6 pathways for a student to (1) graduate with a certification, license or
7 registration that enables such student to practice in a health care field
8 upon graduation from the program, and (2) complete a curriculum
9 designed to prepare such student for higher education in premedicine
10 or nursing. Not later than February 1, 2024, the Commissioner of
11 Education shall report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general
12 statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
13 having cognizance of matters relating to public health regarding the
14 results of such study.

15 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Public Health shall
16 study methods to address the shortage of radiologic technologists,

17 nuclear medicine technologists and respiratory care practitioners in the
18 state and develop a plan to address such shortage. Not later than
19 February 1, 2024, the commissioner shall report, in accordance with the
20 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing
21 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
22 relating to public health regarding the results of such study.

23 Sec. 3. Section 20-126j of the general statutes is repealed and the
24 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

25 Except as provided in section 20-126k, each applicant for a license to
26 practice dental hygiene shall be examined through written and practical
27 examinations by the Department of Public Health, as to [his] such
28 applicant's professional knowledge and skill before such license is
29 granted. All examinations shall be given at least once per year and at
30 other times prescribed by the department. [Such examination shall be
31 conducted in the English language.] On and after January 1, 2024, such
32 examination shall be offered in both English and Spanish. The
33 Commissioner of Public Health may accept and approve, in lieu of the
34 written examination required in this section, the results of a written
35 examination given by the Joint Commission on National Dental
36 Examinations or comparable national examinations subject to such
37 conditions as said commissioner may prescribe; and said commissioner
38 may accept and approve, in lieu of the practical examination required in
39 this section, the results of practical examinations given by regional
40 testing agencies subject to such conditions as the Department of Public
41 Health may prescribe. Passing scores shall be prescribed by the
42 Department of Public Health. Said department shall grant licenses to
43 such applicants as are qualified.

44 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) The Commissioner of Public
45 Health shall notify each applicant who is approved to take an
46 examination required for licensure, certification or registration by the
47 Department of Public Health that such applicant may be eligible for
48 testing accommodations pursuant to the federal Americans with
49 Disabilities Act, 42 USC 12101 et seq., as amended from time to time.

50 Sec. 5. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Public Health shall
51 study the feasibility of offering competency testing for dental assistants,
52 phlebotomists, electrocardiography technicians and respiratory care
53 practitioners in both English and Spanish. Not later than February 1,
54 2024, the commissioner shall report, in accordance with section 11-4a of
55 the general statutes, on such study.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	20-126j
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To address health care workforce shortages 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.]