

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1991

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SENATE BILL 278*

Short Title: Nursing Shortage Remedies.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Daniel; Allran, Carpenter, Cochrane, Conder, Cooper, Daughtry, Martin of Guilford, Marvin, Odom, Perdue, Plexico, Raynor, Richardson, Sands, Seymour, Smith, Staton, Ward, and Warren.

Referred to: Higher Education.

March 25, 1991

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS THE NURSING SHORTAGE IN NORTH CAROLINA.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. G.S. 90-171.61(b) reads as rewritten:

"(b) The Nursing Scholars Program shall be used to provide the following:

- (1) A four-year scholarship loan in the amount of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per year, per recipient, to North Carolina high school seniors or other persons interested in preparing to become a registered nurse through a baccalaureate degree program.
- (2) A two-year scholarship loan in the amount of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) per year, per recipient, to persons interested in preparing to be a registered nurse through an associate degree nursing program or a diploma nursing program.
- (3) A two-year scholarship loan in the amount of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) per year, per recipient, for two years of baccalaureate nursing study for college juniors or community college graduates interested in preparing to be a registered nurse.
- (4) A two-year scholarship loan of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) per year, per recipient, for two years of baccalaureate study in nursing for registered nurses who do not hold a baccalaureate degree in nursing.

- 1 (3) To enhance and promote recognition, reward, and renewal activities
2 for nurses in North Carolina by:
3 a. Promoting continuation of Institutes for Nursing Excellence
4 programs as piloted by the Area Health Education Centers in
5 1989-90 or similar options;
6 b. Proposing and creating additional reward, recognition, and
7 renewal activities for nurses; and
8 c. Promoting media and positive image-building efforts for
9 nursing.

10 **"§ 90-171.71. North Carolina Center for Nursing; governing board.**

11 (a) The North Carolina Center for Nursing shall be governed by a policy-setting
12 Board of Directors. The Board shall consist of 15 members, with a simple majority of
13 the Board being nurses representative of various practice areas. Other members shall
14 include representatives of other health care professions, business and industry, health
15 care providers, and consumers. The Board shall be appointed as follows:

- 16 (1) Four members appointed by the General Assembly upon
17 recommendation of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, at least
18 one of whom shall be a registered nurse and at least one other a
19 representative of the hospital industry;
20 (2) Four members appointed by the General Assembly upon the
21 recommendation of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, at
22 least one of whom shall be a registered nurse and at least one other a
23 representative of the long-term care industry;
24 (3) Four members appointed by the Governor, two of whom shall be
25 registered nurses; and
26 (4) Three nurse educators, one of whom appointed by the Board of
27 Governors of The University of North Carolina, one other by the State
28 Board of Community Colleges, and one other by the North Carolina
29 Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

30 (b) The initial terms of the members shall be as follows:

- 31 (1) Of the members appointed pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection
32 (a) of this section, two shall be appointed for terms expiring June 30,
33 1994, one for a term expiring June 30, 1993, and one for a term
34 expiring June 30, 1992;
35 (2) Of the members appointed pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection
36 (a) of this section, one shall be appointed for a term expiring June 30,
37 1994, two for terms expiring June 30, 1993, and one for a term
38 expiring June 30, 1992;
39 (3) Of the members appointed pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection
40 (a) of this section, one shall be appointed for a term expiring June 30,
41 1994, one for a term expiring June 30, 1993, and two for terms
42 expiring June 30, 1992; and
43 (4) Of the members appointed pursuant to subdivision (4) of subsection
44 (a) of this section, one shall be appointed for a term expiring June 30,

1 1994, one for a term expiring June 30, 1993, and one for a term
2 expiring June 30, 1992.

3 After the initial appointments expire, the terms of all of the members shall be three
4 years, with no member serving more than two consecutive terms.

5 (c) The Board of Directors shall have the following powers and duties:

6 (1) To employ the executive director;

7 (2) To determine operational policy;

8 (3) To elect a chairperson and officers, to serve two-year terms. The
9 chairperson and officers may not succeed themselves;

10 (4) To establish committees of the Board as needed;

11 (5) To appoint a multidisciplinary advisory council for input and advice
12 on policy matters;

13 (6) To implement the major functions of the Center for Nursing as
14 established in the goals set out in subsection (a) of this section; and

15 (7) To seek and accept non-State funds for carrying out Center policy.

16 (d) The Board shall receive the per diem and allowances prescribed by G.S. 138-
17 5 for State boards and commissions.

18 **"§ 90-171.72. North Carolina Center for Nursing; State support.**

19 The General Assembly finds that it is imperative that the State protect its investment
20 and progress made in its nursing efforts to date. The General Assembly further finds
21 that the North Carolina Center for Nursing is the appropriate means to do so. The
22 Center shall have State budget support for its operations so that it may have adequate
23 resources for the tasks the General Assembly has set it in this Article."

24 Sec. 4. The Board of Nursing shall review the current nursing curricula
25 requirements, including those in clinical settings, for their relevancy in current practice
26 settings in North Carolina. This review shall focus on ensuring the use of all available
27 clinical settings in order to serve the maximum number of nursing students, on an
28 educationally sound basis.

29 Sec. 5. The Department of Community Colleges shall encourage those
30 community colleges with both associate degree nursing programs and college transfer
31 programs to counsel their nursing students to take as many of their courses as practical
32 from the college transfer course offerings. The intent of this counseling is to enhance
33 the educational mobility of nurses by increasing the number of community college
34 courses transferable to baccalaureate nursing programs.

35 Sec. 6. Funding authorized for the development of clinical sites in Section 2
36 of Chapter 794 of the 1989 Session Laws may be used to train preceptors at self-
37 selected clinical sites if these sites meet the rural, long-term care, and critical care,
38 shortage guidelines specified in Section 1 of Chapter 560 of the 1989 Session Laws.
39 These funds may also be used to develop clinical sites not meeting these shortage areas
40 if the new sites will specifically expand enrollment capacity at a school of nursing.

41 Sec. 7. The General Assembly finds that the State should expand its efforts to
42 recruit nurses to rural areas and long-term care settings. The Department of Community
43 Colleges and the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina shall ensure
44 that the schools of nursing in the community college system and in The University of

1 North Carolina system make every effort to provide their students with exposure to
2 clinical experience in rural areas and at long-term care sites.

3 Sec. 8. The Office of State Personnel shall review the improvements in nurse
4 recruitment at the University of North Carolina Hospitals at Chapel Hill to determine if
5 similar improvements would be possible elsewhere in State government.

6 Sec. 9. The General Assembly finds that vacancies in public health agencies
7 have a significant impact on the State's implementation of various health programs. The
8 General Assembly urges counties to keep salaries for public health nurses competitive
9 with the salaries of other nurses.

10 Sec. 10. The Department of Public Instruction shall meet with admissions
11 officers from those community colleges, constituent institutions of The University of
12 North Carolina, and private colleges and universities, that have nursing programs, to
13 acquaint admissions officers with the academic requirements, changes, and academic
14 content of the Health Occupations curriculum. The Board of Governors of The
15 University of North Carolina shall require the admissions officers of the appropriate
16 constituent institutions to determine whether health occupations education courses,
17 taken as electives beyond the minimum academic admissions requirements of The
18 University of North Carolina, may be viewed as enhancing a student's preparation for
19 academic pursuit of a health career rather than as a detriment to consideration for
20 university admission. The Board shall require the admissions officers to report their
21 evaluation and findings to the Department of Public Instruction by March 31, 1992.

22 Sec. 11. The Department of Community Colleges, the Board of Governors of
23 The University of North Carolina, and the North Carolina Association of Private and
24 Independent Colleges and Universities shall continue efforts to require that their schools
25 of nursing attract nursing students from minority populations and nontraditional student
26 groups.

27 Sec. 12. The General Assembly urges the health care industry to cooperate
28 with the Area Health Education Centers and with schools of nursing in providing
29 expanded summer experiences in health care for high school students. The General
30 Assembly encourages the health care industry to continue and to expand its financial
31 assistance in providing these programs.

32 Sec. 13. The General Assembly finds that differentiated practice models that
33 are based on clinical experience and expertise and then used as personnel deployment
34 systems can have positive impacts on the quality of patient care and satisfaction and
35 retention of experienced nurses in the practice setting. Therefore, the Office of State
36 Personnel shall select a State institution employing nurses to experiment with such a
37 differentiated practice model. For the duration of the experiment, the State Personnel
38 Commission may waive rules adopted to implement Chapter 126 of the General Statutes
39 regulating the hiring and paying of State employees, other than those that guarantee
40 freedom from race, gender, and age discrimination, that are necessary to carry out the
41 experiment. The Office of State Personnel shall report the results of the experiment by
42 June 1, 1993, including recommendations on changes that would need to be made to
43 Chapter 126 of the General Statutes if the report concludes that the experiment should
44 be continued, or made a statewide program.

1 Sec. 14. This act becomes effective July 1, 1991.