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SENATE BILL 5599

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State of Washington                      59th Legislature                      2005 Regular Session

By Senators Franklin, Kastama, Thibaudeau, Benson, Kline and McAuliffe

Read first time 01/28/2005. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1            AN ACT Relating to funding a central resource center for the  
2 nursing work force; amending RCW 43.70.110 and 43.70.250; adding a new  
3 section to chapter 18.79 RCW; and creating a new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** Washington state is experiencing a critical  
6 shortage of registered nurses. To safeguard and promote patient safety  
7 and quality of care, the legislature finds that a central resource  
8 center for the nursing work force is critical and essential in  
9 addressing the nursing shortage and ensuring that the public continue  
10 to receive safe, quality care.

11            **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.70.110 and 1993 sp.s. c 24 s 918 are each amended  
12 to read as follows:

13            (1) The secretary shall charge fees to the licensee for obtaining  
14 a license. After June 30, 1995, municipal corporations providing  
15 emergency medical care and transportation services pursuant to chapter  
16 18.73 RCW shall be exempt from such fees, provided that such other  
17 emergency services shall only be charged for their pro rata share of  
18 the cost of licensure and inspection, if appropriate. The secretary

1 may waive the fees when, in the discretion of the secretary, the fees  
2 would not be in the best interest of public health and safety, or when  
3 the fees would be to the financial disadvantage of the state.

4 (2) Except as provided in section 4 of this act, fees charged shall  
5 be based on, but shall not exceed, the cost to the department for the  
6 licensure of the activity or class of activities and may include costs  
7 of necessary inspection.

8 (3) Department of health advisory committees may review fees  
9 established by the secretary for licenses and comment upon the  
10 appropriateness of the level of such fees.

11 **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.70.250 and 1996 c 191 s 1 are each amended to read  
12 as follows:

13 It shall be the policy of the state of Washington that the cost of  
14 each professional, occupational, or business licensing program be fully  
15 borne by the members of that profession, occupation, or business. The  
16 secretary shall from time to time establish the amount of all  
17 application fees, license fees, registration fees, examination fees,  
18 permit fees, renewal fees, and any other fee associated with licensing  
19 or regulation of professions, occupations, or businesses administered  
20 by the department. In fixing said fees, the secretary shall set the  
21 fees for each program at a sufficient level to defray the costs of  
22 administering that program, except as provided in section 4 of this  
23 act. All such fees shall be fixed by rule adopted by the secretary in  
24 accordance with the provisions of the administrative procedure act,  
25 chapter 34.05 RCW.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 18.79 RCW  
27 to read as follows:

28 (1) In addition to the licensing fee for registered nurses and  
29 licensed practical nurses licensed under this chapter, the department  
30 shall impose an additional surcharge of five dollars per year on all  
31 initial licenses and renewal licenses for registered nurses and  
32 licensed practical nurses issued under this chapter. Advanced  
33 registered nurse practitioners are only required to pay the surcharge  
34 on their registered nurse licenses.

35 (2) The department, in consultation with the commission, shall use  
36 the proceeds from the surcharge imposed under subsection (1) of this

1 section to provide grants to a central nursing resource center. The  
2 grants may be awarded only to a not-for-profit central nursing resource  
3 center that is comprised of and led by nurses. The central nursing  
4 resource center will demonstrate coordination with relevant nursing  
5 constituents including professional nursing organizations, groups  
6 representing nursing educators, staff nurses, nurse managers or  
7 executives, and labor organizations representing nurses. The central  
8 nursing resource center shall have as its mission to contribute to the  
9 health and wellness of Washington state residents by ensuring that  
10 there is an adequate nursing work force to meet the current and future  
11 health care needs of the citizens of the state of Washington. The  
12 grants must be used to fund the following activities of the central  
13 nursing resource center:

14 (a) Maintain information on the current and projected supply and  
15 demand of nurses through the collection and analysis of data regarding  
16 the nursing work force, including but not limited to education level,  
17 race and ethnicity, employment settings, nursing positions, reasons for  
18 leaving the nursing profession, and those leaving Washington state to  
19 practice elsewhere. This data collection and analysis must complement  
20 other state activities to produce data on the nursing work force and  
21 the central nursing resource center shall work collaboratively with  
22 other entities in the data collection to ensure coordination and avoid  
23 duplication of efforts;

24 (b) Monitor and validate trends in the applicant pool for programs  
25 in nursing. The central nursing resource center must work with nursing  
26 leaders to identify approaches to address issues arising related to the  
27 trends identified, and collect information on other states' approaches  
28 to addressing these issues;

29 (c) Facilitate partnerships between the nursing community and other  
30 health care providers, licensing authority, business and industry,  
31 consumers, legislators, and educators to achieve policy consensus,  
32 promote diversity within the profession, and enhance nursing career  
33 mobility and nursing leadership development;

34 (d) Evaluate the effectiveness of nursing education and  
35 articulation among programs to increase access to nursing education and  
36 enhance career mobility, especially for populations that are  
37 underrepresented in the nursing profession;

1 (e) Provide consultation, technical assistance, data, and  
2 information related to Washington state and national nursing resources;

3 (f) Promote initiatives to enhance patient safety and quality  
4 patient care including encouraging a safe and healthy workplace  
5 environment for nurses;

6 (g) Educate the public including students in K-12 about  
7 opportunities and careers in nursing;

8 (h) Other activities as defined by the department and mutually  
9 agreed upon with the central nursing resource center.

10 (3) The nursing resource center account is created in the custody  
11 of the state treasurer. All receipts from the surcharge in subsection  
12 (1) of this section must be deposited in the account. Expenditures  
13 from the account may be used only for grants to an organization to  
14 conduct the specific activities listed in subsection (2) of this  
15 section and to compensate the department for the reasonable costs  
16 associated with the collection and distribution of the surcharge and  
17 the administration of the grant provided for in subsection (2) of this  
18 section. No money from this account may be used by the recipient  
19 towards administrative costs of the central nursing resource center not  
20 associated with the specific activities listed in subsection (2) of  
21 this section or lobbying. Only the secretary or the secretary's  
22 designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The account is  
23 subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an  
24 appropriation is not required for expenditures. Grants will be awarded  
25 on an annual basis and funds will be distributed quarterly. The first  
26 distribution after awarding the first grant shall be made no later than  
27 six months after the effective date of this section. The central  
28 nursing resource center shall report to the department on meeting the  
29 grant objectives annually.

30 (4) The central nursing resource center shall submit a report of  
31 all progress, collaboration with other organizations and government  
32 entities, and activities conducted by the center to the relevant  
33 committees of the legislature by November 30, 2008.

34 (5) The department may adopt rules as necessary to implement this  
35 act.

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