

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5582

As of January 30, 2023

Title: An act relating to reducing barriers and expanding educational opportunities to increase the supply of nurses in Washington.

Brief Description: Reducing barriers and expanding educational opportunities to increase the supply of nurses in Washington.

Sponsors: Senators Holy, Randall, Rivers, Robinson, Dozier, King, Conway, Shewmake, Padden, Lovick, Gildon, Muzzall, Lovelett, Mullet, Nobles, Saldaña, Valdez, Van De Wege, Wellman, Wilson, C. and Wilson, L..

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Higher Education & Workforce Development: 2/01/23.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires the state board for community and technical colleges to develop a plan to increase credential opportunities in nursing.
- Creates nursing education opportunities at community and technical colleges and within the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Modifies program approval and training requirements under the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission.
- Creates the High School Student Certified Nursing Assistant Pilot Program.
- Modifies the basic education funding formula to reduce class sizes in skills centers.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Staff: Alicia Kinne-Clawson (786-7407)

Background: Workforce Demands. Registered nurses (RN), licensed practical nurses (LPN), and certified nursing assistants (CNA) continuously rank among the most in-demand careers in Washington State with exceptionally long vacancies. Over the last five years, the state has averaged 3200 qualified applicants to nursing programs turned away annually due to not enough capacity in RN programs. The community and technical colleges are graduating between 1600 and 1800 nursing students annually.

The Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission (NCQAC) regulates the nursing profession in Washington and establishes, monitors, and enforces licensing, standards of practice, and discipline. NCQAC has responsibility for approving and regulating all nursing education programs in the state.

NCQAC is currently operating the following programs to address the nursing workforce demands:

- LPN apprenticeship program—n 2021, the legislature provided a planning grant to NCQAC to fund a 3-year implementation of the LPN apprenticeship program; and
- Washington State Student Nurse Preceptor Grant Program—the grant program is currently funded at \$3 million annually and funds nurses who precept nursing students in healthcare settings including advanced registered nurse practitioner, RN, and LPN programs.

Skill Centers. Skill centers are regional career and technical education (CTE) instructional venues established and operated by a host school district to provide access to comprehensive, industry-defined CTE programs that prepare high school students for careers, employment, apprenticeships, and postsecondary education. There are 14 skill centers in Washington. In the 2019-20 school year, approximately 5600 full-time equivalent students were enrolled in skill centers.

Summary of Bill: Expanding Nursing Credential Opportunities. *State Board for Community and Technical Colleges.* \$100,000 is appropriated to the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) to develop a plan to train more nurses over the next four years. The plan must include CNAs, LPNs, and RNs. A report with the plan is due by December 1, 2024.

SBCTC must develop an online LPN curriculum. The curriculum may include use of a mobile skills lab or other innovative approaches to serve rural students.

Subject to amounts appropriated, community colleges must guarantee enrollment space for Home Care Aid to LPN Apprenticeship Pathway Program participants.

Licensed Practical Nurse Apprenticeship Pathway Program. The Home Care Aid to LPN Apprenticeship Pathway Program is created with three pilot locations in geographically

disparate sites. A report is due to the Legislature on the status of the pilot and opportunities to scale-up by December 1, 2025.

Marketing Program. The Workforce Board is required to contract with marketing firms to advertise available nurse training opportunities and jobs in Washington.

Certified Nursing Assistants Training Program. The Department of Veteran's Affairs is directed to design a CNA program and conduct outreach to address the CNA shortage in state veterans' homes.

Eliminate Bottlenecks in Nurse Training. *Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commissions.* NCQAC is permitted to grant approval to bachelors degrees in nursing programs where the nurse administrator holds a graduate degree with a major in nursing and sufficient experience.

NCQAC must count one hour of simulation lab experience in place of two hours of clinical placement learning.

The state appropriation for the Student Nurse Preceptor Grant Program is increased to \$6 million. NCQAC must expand the program with a focus on serving acute shortage areas including rural and underserved communities and long-term care facilities.

Grow K-12 Pathways into Healthcare Careers. *Career and Technical Education Grant Program.* Establishes a grant program for CTE health sciences to allow districts to create or expand health science program offerings.

High School Student CNAs Pilot Program. The Nursing Commission, in collaboration with rural hospitals, CNA certified training programs, and the Department of Labor and Industries, must create at least two pilot projects for rural hospitals to help address workforce shortages and promote nursing careers in rural hospitals. The pilot project must have at least one participating rural hospital on the east and west side of the Cascade mountains.

Skills Centers. The basic education funding formula is modified to reduce the class size in skills centers from 19 students per instructor to 16 students.

Appropriation: The bill contains appropriations totaling \$6,100,000 from various accounts.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 26, 2023.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.