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I N A S S E M B L Y

January 12, 2011

Introduced by M. of A. MORELLE, PHEFFER, TOWNS, JAFFEE, PERRY, MAGNARELLI, SPANO, ROSENTHAL, CUSICK, GUNTHER, CAMARA, ORTIZ, GIBSON, PAULIN, KELLNER, CASTRO, LAVINE, TITONE, DINOWITZ, GOTTFRIED -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. CAHILL, CONTE, CYMBROWITZ, DenDEKKER, DESTITO, ENGLEBRIGHT, FINCH, FITZPATRICK, GALEF, HEASTIE, HOOPER, HOYT, JEFFRIES, KOLB, LATIMER, LIFTON, LUPARDO, McDONOUGH, J. MILLER, MILLMAN, NOLAN, PRETLOW, J. RIVERA, ROBINSON, RUSSELL, SCHIMEL, SWEENEY, WEISENBERG -- read once and referred to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to the educational preparation for practice of professional nursing

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. The legislature hereby finds and declares that with the
2 increasing complexity of the American healthcare system and rapidly
3 expanding technology, the educational preparation of the registered
4 professional nurse must be expanded. The nurse of the future must be
5 prepared to partner with multiple disciplines as a collaborator and
6 manager of the complex patient care journey. Shorter lengths of stays,
7 higher patient acuity, and more sophisticated technologies and proce-
8 dures are increasing the complexity of patient care - which in turn
9 places great demands on nursing competencies. Other countries are
10 responding to these changes by requiring the baccalaureate degree as an
11 entry requirement for nursing licensure while other professions are
12 demanding master and doctoral degrees as their entry point. Several
13 recent research studies clearly demonstrate the added value of addi-
14 tional education in relation to improved patient outcomes; one study
15 demonstrates that each ten percent increase in the number of baccalau-
16 reate prepared nurses results in a five percent decrease in surgical
17 patient deaths. Therefore, the legislature finds that expanding the
18 educational requirements for the profession of nursing, while maintain-

EXPLANATION--Matter in *ITALICS* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[] is old law to be omitted.

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1 ing the multiple entry points into the profession, is needed. This bill
2 affects future nurses graduating from associate degree or diploma nurs-
3 ing programs who would be required to obtain a baccalaureate in nursing
4 within ten years of initial licensure. All current nurses licensed in
5 New York and students in programs preparing for registered professional
6 nursing are to be exempt from the new requirement. This legislation is
7 mirrored after the progressive education requirement for teachers in New
8 York state. Numerous regulatory and accrediting bodies have recommended
9 this change as a means to address sophisticated patient care needs
10 resulting from shorter lengths of stay, higher acuity and more sophisti-
11 cated interventions. This proposal is the result of a growing body of
12 research evidence that additional education results in better patient
13 outcomes. Therefore by requiring the baccalaureate degree for continued
14 registration as a registered professional nurse this bill seeks to be
15 responsive to meet the increasingly complex health care needs of the
16 residents of New York state.

17 S 2. Subdivision 2 of section 6905 of the education law, as amended by
18 chapter 994 of the laws of 1971 and such section as renumbered by chap-
19 ter 50 of the laws of 1972, is amended to read as follows:

20 (2) Education: have received an education, and a diploma or degree in
21 professional nursing, in accordance with the commissioner's regulations,
22 AND IN ORDER TO CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN REGISTRATION AS A REGISTERED
23 PROFESSIONAL NURSE IN NEW YORK STATE, HAVE ATTAINED A BACCALAUREATE
24 DEGREE IN NURSING WITHIN TEN YEARS OF INITIAL LICENSURE IN ACCORDANCE
25 WITH THE COMMISSIONER'S REGULATIONS. IN ITS DISCRETION, THE DEPARTMENT
26 MAY ISSUE A CONDITIONAL REGISTRATION TO A LICENSEE WHO FAILS TO COMPLETE
27 THE BACCALAUREATE DEGREE BUT WHO AGREES TO MEET THE ADDITIONAL REQUIRE-
28 MENT WITHIN ONE YEAR. THE FEE FOR SUCH A CONDITIONAL REGISTRATION SHALL
29 BE THE SAME AS, AND IN ADDITION TO, THE FEE FOR THE TRIENNIAL REGISTRA-
30 TION. THE DURATION OF SUCH CONDITIONAL REGISTRATION SHALL BE FOR ONE
31 YEAR AND MAY BE EXTENDED, WITH THE PAYMENT OF A FEE, FOR NO MORE THAN
32 ONE ADDITIONAL YEAR. ANY LICENSEE WHO IS NOTIFIED OF THE DENIAL OF A
33 REGISTRATION FOR FAILURE TO COMPLETE THE ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL REQUIRE-
34 MENTS AND WHO PRACTICES AS A REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL NURSE WITHOUT SUCH
35 REGISTRATION MAY BE SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS PURSUANT TO
36 SECTION SIXTY-FIVE HUNDRED TEN OF THIS TITLE;

37 S 3. The provisions of this act shall not apply to:

38 a. any student entering a generic baccalaureate program preparing
39 registered professional nurses after the effective date of this act;

40 b. any student currently enrolled in, or having an application pending
41 in, a program preparing registered nurses as of the effective date of
42 this act;

43 c. any person already licensed as a registered professional nurse or
44 any unlicensed graduate professional nurse who is eligible to take the
45 National Council Licensure Examination as of the effective date of this
46 act.

47 S 4. This act shall take effect immediately and the commissioner of
48 education is authorized to promulgate any rule or regulation necessary
49 to implement the provisions of this act.