S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

4204

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

February 2, 2011

Introduced by M. of A. PERRY -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. CANESTRARI, COLTON, COOK, ENGLEBRIGHT, GALEF, GANTT, HEASTIE, HOOPER, JAFFEE, MAGEE, MILLMAN, PHEFFER, J. RIVERA, P. RIVERA, ROBINSON, SWEENEY, TOWNS, WEISENBERG, WRIGHT -- read once and referred to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to enacting the "Nurse of Tomorrow Act of 2011" to provide for grants to public and not-for-profit hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, schools and other entities for nurse recruitment, education and retention costs and activities

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

Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Nurse of Tomorrow Act of 2011".

S 2. The education law is amended by adding a new section 3613 to read as follows:

S 3613. NURSE OF TOMORROW NURSE RECRUITMENT, EDUCATION AND RETENTION INCENTIVE PROGRAM. 1. NURSE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION GRANTS. A. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL AWARD GRANTS TO PUBLIC AND NOT-FOR-PROFIT HOSPITALS AND SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES THAT ARE EXPERIENCING SHORTAGES IN NURSING PERSONNEL TO BE UTILIZED TOWARD THE PAYMENT OF THE FOLLOWING COSTS:

(I) PROVIDING SALARY BONUSES FOR NURSES WHO MAKE A COMMITMENT TO WORK IN THE HOSPITAL OR SKILLED NURSING FACILITY FOR A MULTI-YEAR PERIOD;

(II) PROVIDING SALARY BONUSES FOR NURSES WHO HAVE NOT BEEN PRACTICING NURSING FOR A PERIOD OF AT LEAST FIVE YEARS AND WHO MAKE A COMMITMENT TO WORK IN THE HOSPITAL OR SKILLED NURSING FACILITY FOR A MULTI-YEAR PERIOD;

(III) PROVIDING SKILLS TRAINING AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT OF NURSES TO BECOME CERTIFIED IN CLINICAL SPECIALTY AREAS EXPERIENCING SHORTAGES IN THE HOSPITAL OR SKILLED NURSING FACILITY;

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

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(IV) PROVIDING GRANTS TO ENCOURAGE NURSES TO UPGRADE THEIR SKILLS TO ENABLE THEM TO WORK IN CLINICAL SPECIALTY AREAS EXPERIENCING SHORTAGES IN THE HOSPITAL OR SKILLED NURSING FACILITY;

(V) PROVIDING SALARY BONUSES FOR NON-MANAGEMENT NURSES WHO RECRUIT NURSES THAT STAY EMPLOYED AT THE HOSPITAL OR SKILLED NURSING FACILITY FOR AT LEAST ONE YEAR;

(VI) PROVIDING TUITION REIMBURSEMENT FOR NURSES WHO PURSUE STUDY TOWARDS A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN NURSING OR FOR OTHER HEALTH CARE WORKERS WHO PURSUE ASSOCIATE DEGREES IN NURSING;

(VII) PROVIDING STIPENDS TO SUPPORT SUMMER INTERNSHIPS FOR STUDENT NURSES AT THE HOSPITAL OR SKILLED NURSING FACILITY; AND

(VIII) OTHER NURSE RETENTION AND RECRUITMENT STRATEGIES APPROVED BY THE COMMISSIONER.

B. IN AWARDING GRANTS PURSUANT TO THIS SUBDIVISION, THE COMMISSIONER SHALL GIVE PREFERENCE TO PUBLIC AND NOT-FOR-PROFIT HOSPITALS AND SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES APPLICANTS IN FINANCIAL NEED AS DEMONSTRATED BY LOW OR NEGATIVE OPERATING MARGINS.

2. BASIC NURSE EDUCATION EXPANSION GRANTS. A. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL AWARD GRANTS TO AND ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH ASSOCIATE DEGREE-GRANTING SCHOOLS OF NURSING INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO SINGLE-PURPOSE DEGREE-GRANTING INSTITUTIONS AFFILIATED WITH NOT-FOR-PROFIT OR PUBLIC HOSPITALS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXPANDING THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO ARE PROVIDED BASIC NURSE EDUCATION AT SUCH SCHOOLS.

B. IN AWARDING GRANTS PURSUANT TO THIS SUBDIVISION, THE COMMISSIONER SHALL GIVE PREFERENCE TO APPLICANTS THAT:

(I) HAVE DEMONSTRATED THE ABILITY TO RECRUIT AND CREATE A MULTICULTURAL STUDENT BODY;

(II) PROVIDE REMEDIAL EDUCATION TO HELP STUDENTS WITH DIVERSE NEEDS AND BACKGROUNDS TO MASTER THE LANGUAGE, READING AND MATHEMATICS SKILLS NECESSARY TO ATTAIN A LICENSE;

(III) PROVIDE THE COMMISSIONER AND THE COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH WITH A PLAN TO RECRUIT NURSE AIDES, LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSES AND OTHER HEALTH CARE WORKERS;

(IV) PROVIDE THE COMMISSIONER AND THE COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH WITH A PLAN TO BUILD TECHNOLOGICALLY MODERN CLASSROOMS AND LABORATORIES TO ENABLE STUDENTS TO LEARN THE LATEST TECHNOLOGIES INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, MEDICAL ERROR REDUCTION TECHNOLOGIES; AND

(V) PROVIDE THE COMMISSIONER AND THE COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH WITH A DETAILED PLAN TO SUBSTANTIALLY EXPAND THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE SCHOOL OVER A FOUR-YEAR PERIOD.

3. NURSE EDUCATION ENCOURAGEMENT GRANTS. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL AWARD GRANTS TO COLLEGIATE SCHOOLS OF NURSING, ASSOCIATE DEGREE-GRANTING SCHOOLS OF NURSING, DIPLOMA-GRANTING SCHOOLS OF NURSING, HOSPITAL OR OTHER PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS, NOT-FOR-PROFIT OR PUBLIC HOSPITALS AND SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES TO ENABLE SUCH ENTITIES TO WORK TOGETHER WITH SCHOOL DISTRICT AUTHORITIES TO DEVELOP PROGRAMS TO ENCOURAGE SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS TO CHOOSE NURSING AS A PROFESSION.

S 3. This act shall take effect immediately.