

# STATE OF NEW YORK

2644

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

January 19, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. HYNDMAN -- 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 2021" 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:

1 Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as  
2 the "Nurse of Tomorrow Act of 2021".

3 § 2. The education law is amended by adding a new section 3615 to read  
4 as follows:

5 § 3615. Nurse of tomorrow nurse recruitment, education and retention  
6 incentive program. 1. Nurse recruitment and retention grants. a. The  
7 commissioner shall award grants to public and not-for-profit hospitals  
8 and skilled nursing facilities that are experiencing shortages in nurs-  
9 ing personnel to be utilized toward the payment of the following costs:

10 (i) providing salary bonuses for nurses who make a commitment to work  
11 in the hospital or skilled nursing facility for a multi-year period;

12 (ii) providing salary bonuses for nurses who have not been practicing  
13 nursing for a period of at least five years and who make a commitment to  
14 work in the hospital or skilled nursing facility for a multi-year peri-  
15 od;

16 (iii) providing skills training and career development of nurses to  
17 become certified in clinical specialty areas experiencing shortages in  
18 the hospital or skilled nursing facility;

19 (iv) providing grants to encourage nurses to upgrade their skills to  
20 enable them to work in clinical specialty areas experiencing shortages  
21 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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1 (v) providing salary bonuses for non-management nurses who recruit  
2 nurses that stay employed at the hospital or skilled nursing facility  
3 for at least one year;

4 (vi) providing tuition reimbursement for nurses who pursue study  
5 towards a bachelor's degree in nursing or for other health care workers  
6 who pursue associate degrees in nursing;

7 (vii) providing stipends to support summer internships for student  
8 nurses at the hospital or skilled nursing facility; and

9 (viii) other nurse retention and recruitment strategies approved by  
10 the commissioner.

11 b. In awarding grants pursuant to this subdivision, the commissioner  
12 shall give preference to public and not-for-profit hospitals and skilled  
13 nursing facilities applicants in financial need as demonstrated by low  
14 or negative operating margins.

15 2. Basic nurse education expansion grants. a. The commissioner shall  
16 award grants to and enter into contracts with associate degree-granting  
17 schools of nursing including, but not limited to single-purpose degree-  
18 granting institutions affiliated with not-for-profit or public hospi-  
19 tals, for the purpose of expanding the number of students who are  
20 provided basic nurse education at such schools.

21 b. In awarding grants pursuant to this subdivision, the commissioner  
22 shall give preference to applicants that:

23 (i) have demonstrated the ability to recruit and create a multicul-  
24 tural student body;

25 (ii) provide remedial education to help students with diverse needs  
26 and backgrounds to master the language, reading and mathematics skills  
27 necessary to attain a license;

28 (iii) provide the commissioner and the commissioner of health with a  
29 plan to recruit nurse aides, licensed practical nurses and other health  
30 care workers;

31 (iv) provide the commissioner and the commissioner of health with a  
32 plan to build technologically modern classrooms and laboratories to  
33 enable students to learn the latest technologies including, but not  
34 limited to, medical error reduction technologies; and

35 (v) provide the commissioner and the commissioner of health with a  
36 detailed plan to substantially expand the number of students enrolled in  
37 the school over a four-year period.

38 3. Nurse education encouragement grants. The commissioner shall award  
39 grants to collegiate schools of nursing, associate degree-granting  
40 schools of nursing, diploma-granting schools of nursing, hospital or  
41 other professional associations, not-for-profit or public hospitals and  
42 skilled nursing facilities to enable such entities to work together with  
43 school district authorities to develop programs to encourage secondary  
44 school students to choose nursing as a profession.

45 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.