

STATE OF NEW YORK

5412

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

March 10, 2023

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 2023" 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 2023".

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.