

STATE OF NEW YORK

9646

IN SENATE

May 16, 2024

Introduced by Sen. CHU -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to enacting the "Nurse of Tomorrow Act of 2024" 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 2024".

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;

22 (v) providing salary bonuses for non-management nurses who recruit
23 nurses that stay employed at the hospital or skilled nursing facility
24 for at least one year;

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

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

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

6 (viii) other nurse retention and recruitment strategies approved by
7 the commissioner.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

42 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.