

SUMMARY: THE NURSE EDUCATION, EXPANSION, AND DEVELOPMENT (NEED) ACT OF 2005 (H.R. 3569)

Overview: The NEED Act amends Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act to authorize capitation grants (formula grants based on the number of students enrolled) for schools of nursing to increase the number of faculty and students. Recipient institutions would receive the following amounts per each full or part-time student enrolled: \$1,800 per year for master's or doctoral students, \$1,405 for bachelor's or entry-level master's students, and \$966 for associate degree students. Administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), grants may be used to hire new and retain current faculty, purchase educational equipment, enhance clinical or audiovisual laboratories, repair and expand infrastructure, or recruit students.

Requirements: To apply, a school of nursing must be accredited by a Department of Education-approved nursing accrediting agency, have a passage rate of 80% or greater on the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX), and a graduation rate of at least 80%. In addition to increasing enrollments within the first year of receiving a grant, schools must formulate and implement a plan to accomplish at least two of the following: (1) establish or significantly expand an accelerated baccalaureate nursing program designed to graduate new nurses in 12 to 18 months, (2) establish cooperative intradisciplinary agreements among schools of nursing to share technology and other resources, (3) establish cooperative interdisciplinary training between schools of nursing and other health professions schools, (4) integrate core competencies on evidence based practice, quality improvements, and patient centered care, (5) increase admissions, enrollments, and retention of qualified individuals who are financially disadvantaged, (6) increase enrollment of minority and diverse student populations, (7) increase enrollment of new graduate baccalaureate nursing students in graduate programs educating nurse faculty, (8) develop post-baccalaureate residency programs to prepare nurses for practice in specialty areas, (9) increase integration of geriatric content into core curricula, (10) partner with economically disadvantaged communities, and (11) expand eligibility of nurse managed health centers to serve as clinical training sites.

Data Collection: In addition, schools must comply with several data collection requirements and submit an annual report to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. The report must detail enrollments, student retention rates, graduation rates, NCLEX passage rates, number of graduates pursuing either faculty or clinical roles within 12 months of degree completion, and the number of students accepted into graduate nursing programs. The Secretary must compile this information and report it to Congress.

Reports: The NEED Act also requires that the General Accountability Office (GAO) study methods to increase the numbers of nurse faculty and submit a report to Congress that includes: (1) a discussion of the master's and doctoral programs that are successful in placing graduates as nurse faculty, and (2) an examination of compensation disparities throughout the nursing profession and between higher education instructional faculty in nursing and non-nursing fields.

Authorization: If enacted the bill would authorize \$75 million in FY 2006, \$85 million in FY 2007, and \$95 million in FY 2008.

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