



## SUMMARY: THE NURSE FACULTY EDUCATION ACT (S. 1575)

**Overview:** The Nurse Faculty Education Act amends Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act to establish a demonstration program to ensure an adequate supply of doctorally-prepared nurse faculty. Grants would be awarded to schools of nursing by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to increase enrollment and graduation rates of doctoral students through hiring new faculty, retaining existing faculty, purchasing educational resources, and assisting doctoral graduates in the pursuit of the faculty role. Priority for these grants will be assigned to states with a lower number of employed nurses per 100,000 population. Grants of \$100,000 are awarded for up to five years.

**Requirements:** Within one year of receiving a grant, schools must formulate and implement a plan to accomplish at least two of the following: (1) partner with practice and academic entities to facilitate education and research experiences, (2) partner with educational institutions to hire graduates into nurse faculty positions either prior to or after completion of the doctoral degree, (3) collaborate with schools of nursing to create faculty internships, (4) create cooperative education programs among schools of nursing to share technology and distance learning resources, (5) provide opportunities for minority and diverse student populations to pursue doctoral education, (6) provide opportunities for pre-entry preparation, (7) establish a nurse faculty mentoring program, (8) expedite entry into the faculty role through accelerated doctoral program, (9) highlight the nurse faculty career path for second degree students, and (10) increase outreach activities to attract students into the faculty role.

**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 detailing enrollments, student retention rates, graduation rates, number of graduates employed in a nursing faculty position either full or part-time, and retention of nurse faculty within one and two years of employment. The Secretary must compile this information and report it to Congress.

**Reports:** The Nurse Faculty Education Act also requires that the Comptroller General study activities intended to increase participation in the program and submit a report to Congress that includes: (1) examination of the capacity of schools of nursing to meet nationwide workforce needs, (2) analysis of options to sustain the program beyond its initial funding, (3) discussion of doctoral programs that are successful in placing graduates as nurse faculty, (4) analysis of program design on nurse faculty retention and workforce shortages, (5) analysis of compensation disparities in the nursing profession and between higher education instructional faculty in nursing and non-nursing fields, and (6) recommendations to enhance faculty retention in the nursing workforce.

**Authorization:** If enacted the bill would authorize \$1 million in FY 2006, \$2 million in FY 2007, and \$3 million in each of FYs 2008 through 2010.

**Sponsors:**

Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM)  
*Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX)*

**Cosponsors as of March 22, 2006 (17 total):**

Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA)  
Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA)  
Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-NY)  
Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME)  
Sen. Jon Corzine (D-NJ)  
Sen. Richard Durbin (D-IL)  
Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)  
Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-HI)  
Sen. James Jeffords (I-VT)  
Sen. John Kerry (D-MA)  
Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-LA)  
Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ)  
*Sen. Richard Lugar (R-IN)*  
Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD)  
Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA)  
Sen. Benjamin Nelson (D-NE)  
Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI)