

## Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 1256

An act relating to nursing education; prohibiting the Board of Nursing from developing any rule relating to faculty/student clinical ratios until a specified time; requiring the Board of Nursing and the Department of Education to submit to the Legislature an implementation plan detailing the impact and cost of any such proposed rule change; amending ss. 240.4075, 240.4076, F.S.; including nursing homes, family practice teaching hospitals and specialty children's hospitals as facilities eligible under the program; exempting such hospitals from the fund-matching requirements of the program; transferring the program from the Board of Regents to the Department of Health; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. The Board of Nursing within the Department of Health shall hold in abeyance until July 1, 2002, the development of any rule pursuant to section 464.019(2), Florida Statutes, which relates to the establishment of faculty/student clinical ratios. The Board of Nursing and the Department of Education shall submit to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by December 31, 2001, an implementation plan that details both the impact and the cost of any such proposed rule change.

Section 2. Subsection (1) and paragraph (a) of subsection (7) of section 240.4075, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

240.4075 Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness Program.—

(1) To encourage qualified personnel to seek employment in areas of this state in which critical nursing shortages exist, there is established the Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness Program. The primary function of the program is to increase employment and retention of registered nurses and licensed practical nurses in nursing homes and hospitals in the state and in state-operated medical and health care facilities, birth centers, federally sponsored community health centers, and teaching hospitals, family practice teaching hospitals, and specialty children's hospitals by making repayments toward loans received by students from federal or state programs or commercial lending institutions for the support of postsecondary study in accredited or approved nursing programs.

(7)(a) Funds contained in the Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness Trust Fund which are to be used for loan forgiveness for those nurses employed by hospitals, birth centers, and nursing homes must be matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis by contributions from the employing institutions, except that this provision shall not apply to state-operated medical and health care facilities, county health departments, federally sponsored community health centers, ~~or teaching hospitals as defined in s. 408.07,~~ family practice teaching hospitals as defined in s. 395.805, or specialty children's hospitals as

described in s. 409.9119. If, in any given fiscal quarter, there are insufficient funds in the trust fund to grant all eligible applicants' requests, awards must be based on the following priority by employer: county health departments, federally sponsored community health centers, state-operated medical and health care facilities, teaching hospitals as defined in s. 408.07, family practice teaching hospitals as defined in s. 395.805, specialty children's hospitals as described in s. 409.9119, and other hospitals, birthing centers, or nursing homes where the match is required.

Section 3. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section 240.4076, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

240.4076 Nursing scholarship program.—

(4) Credit for repayment of a scholarship shall be as follows:

(b) Eligible health care facilities include state-operated medical or health care facilities, county health departments, federally sponsored community health centers, ~~or teaching hospitals as defined in s. 408.07, nursing homes, family practice teaching hospitals as defined in s. 395.805, or specialty children's hospitals as described in s. 409.9119.~~ The recipient shall be encouraged to complete the service obligation at a single employment site. If continuous employment at the same site is not feasible, the recipient may apply to the department for a transfer to another approved health care facility.

Section 4. All the statutory powers, duties, and functions and the records, personnel, property, and unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations, or other funds of the Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness Program are transferred from the Department of Education to the Department of Health by a type two transfer as defined in section 20.06, Florida Statutes.

Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

Approved by the Governor June 12, 2001.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 12, 2001.