

ASSEMBLY, No. 207

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

213th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2008 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman GORDON M. JOHNSON

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT

District 6 (Camden)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes three-year Nurse Educator Pilot Program in Division of Consumer Affairs.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/26/2008)

1 AN ACT establishing a Nurse Educator Pilot Program.

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3 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
4 *of New Jersey:*

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6 1. a. There is established a three-year Nurse Educator Pilot
7 Program in the Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of
8 Law and Public Safety. The purpose of the program is to alleviate
9 the shortage of nurses in this State that is due in part to the shortage
10 of nurse educators.

11 b. Notwithstanding the faculty qualification requirement set
12 forth in N.J.A.C.13:37-1.7(b)(3) to the contrary, a program in
13 nursing education may hire faculty who are graduates from masters
14 degree programs with majors other than nursing, who have at least
15 20 years of clinical nursing experience, at least half of which was
16 gained in New Jersey, and who otherwise meet the faculty
17 requirements prescribed by the New Jersey Board of Nursing.

18 c. No later than six months before the expiration of this act, the
19 Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs, in consultation with
20 the New Jersey Board of Nursing, shall report to the Governor, and
21 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), the
22 Legislature on the effectiveness of the program in reducing the
23 shortage of nurse educators in the State. The report shall include
24 the number of nurses who were hired under the pilot program,
25 recommendations as to whether the program should be renewed,
26 and such other information as the director deems appropriate.

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28 2. This act shall take effect on the 30th day following the date of
29 enactment and shall expire three years following enactment.

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STATEMENT

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34 This bill establishes a three-year Nurse Educator Pilot Program
35 in the Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Law and
36 Public Safety to address the current and future nurse workforce
37 shortage in this State by temporarily broadening the criteria for
38 nurse educators.

39 The demand for well-educated nurses is rising, but a shortage of
40 nursing school faculty is restricting nursing program enrollments.
41 According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing,
42 more than 11,000 qualified students were turned away from
43 baccalaureate nursing programs in the fall of 2003 due to limited
44 numbers of faculty, clinical sites and classroom space. Of the
45 schools that responded to its survey on enrollment in nursing
46 programs, 38% pointed to faculty shortages as a reason for not

1 accepting all qualified applicants into entry-level baccalaureate
2 programs.

3 Current State Board of Nursing regulations require that nursing
4 program faculty hold a current license in New Jersey as a registered
5 professional nurse, and have taken courses or have professional or
6 clinical experience in the specific area of teaching responsibility. In
7 addition, faculty hired after September 1, 1981 to teach in
8 baccalaureate degree programs, associate degree programs and
9 diploma programs must be graduates from masters degree programs
10 with a major in nursing, and faculty hired after September 1, 1981
11 to teach in licensed practical nursing programs must hold a
12 bachelors degree with a major in nursing. The pilot program would
13 give nursing programs the option of hiring faculty who otherwise
14 meet all current requirements, but who have masters degrees with
15 majors other than nursing and have at least 20 years of clinical
16 nursing experience, at least half of which was gained New Jersey.

17 The bill requires the Director of the Division of Consumer
18 Affairs, in consultation with the New Jersey Board of Nursing, to
19 report to the Governor and the Legislature on the effectiveness of
20 the program in reducing the shortage of nurse educators the State.