

## Recent State Policies/Activities

Healthcare Workforce Development (Education Commissioner of the States., 2006)

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### **ARIZONA Signed into Law 05/2005 Postsecondary**

Establishes the **joint study committee on medical school education**. Requires the committee to: Evaluate the medical education and training needs for health professions and careers throughout the state, including the medical and nursing fields;

- Review and evaluate public and privately provided education programs in health professions and careers;
- Review plans submitted by the Arizona commission on medical education and research;
- Review and evaluate the funding necessary to address the medical education needs of the state;
- Review the implications of family practice on graduate medical education in the state;
- Study methods to retain medical practitioners trained in the state;
- Review locations for medical training facilities that are the most economical and that provide the most benefit to the state;
- Study the medical needs of the communities of the state as they relate to special health care districts and their coordination with existing medical training facilities;
- Study the funding for any phase of a newly established state medical campus and identify additional funding and capital commitments from other public and private entities;
- Study any other market or environmental factors that create barriers to the practice of medicine in Arizona; and,
- Submit a report by December 1, 2005 that summarizes the joint study committee's findings and conclusions to the governor, the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives.

Requires the Committee to provide a copy of this report to the secretary of state and the director of the Arizona state library, archives and public records.

[http://www.azleg.state.az.us/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill\\_Number=1517](http://www.azleg.state.az.us/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=1517)

### **OREGON Signed into Law 06/2005 Postsecondary/Community College**

Requires the Employment Department, in consultation with health care industry employers, to perform a statewide and regional needs assessment for health care occupations to identify emerging occupations and occupations for which there is high demand or a shortage of workers.

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/05reg/measpdf/sb0800.dir/sb0882.en.pdf>

### **CONNECTICUT Signed into Law 06/2004 Postsecondary/Community College**

Creates a **State Allied Health Workforce Policy Board** to monitor data and trends in the allied health workforce including the state's current and future supply and demand for health professionals, identify recruitment and retention strategies and the capacity of the state system of higher education to educate and train students in health care professions.

<http://www.cga.state.ct.us/2004/act/Pa/2004PA-00220-R00SB-00519-PA.htm>

### **TEXAS Signed into Law 06/2005 Postsecondary/Community College**

Gives nursing schools the tools to address the nursing shortage. This bill sets statewide goals for increasing the number of initial RN graduates, developing strategies for increasing graduation rates from nursing programs, and promoting innovation in nursing education through the regionalization of common administrative and instructional functions, interdisciplinary instruction, pooled or shared faculty, and new clinical instruction models to maximize use of existing resources and faculty.

<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/cgi-bin/tlo/textframe.cmd?>

### **ARIZONA Signed into Law 05/2005 Postsecondary/Community College**

Establishes the **Arizona partnership for nursing education demonstration project** to increase the capacity of nursing education programs in the state by fostering collaboration among the state's education and health care communities and the state and federal governments. Requires the demonstration project to address the state's nursing shortage by increasing the number of nurses graduating from the state's nursing education programs with the goal of doubling the number of nursing graduates by the end of fiscal year 2009-2010 from the number graduating in fiscal year 2004-2005.

Establishes the nursing education demonstration project fund and appropriates monies to this fund. States that the fund consists of monies appropriated to the fund and monies provided by any federal agency, entity or program for nursing education and workforce expansion, and that monies in the fund are exempt from the provisions of section 35-190, Arizona Revised Statutes, relating to lapsing of appropriations. Requires monies in the nursing education demonstration project fund to be used to:

- Pay for salaries, benefits, training and related expenses and operational costs necessary to increase the number of qualified nursing education faculty members teaching in nursing degree programs operated or overseen by the Arizona board of regents or by community college districts.
- Pay for certain expenses only for additional nursing education faculty members based on the number of faculty members who provide this education on June 30, 2005.
- Supplement and not supplant monies that are appropriated by the legislature for the fiscal years 2005-2006 through 2009-2010 by funding the number of nursing education faculty members who provide this education in fiscal year 2004-2005.

This statute requires fund monies to be distributed in a manner designed to increase the number of nurses graduating from universities and community colleges by increasing available faculty and teaching resources in a manner that provides for the efficient use of available monies and shared resources, geographic distribution of nurses in this state and increased diversity in the nursing workforce. Allows the distribution systems to include grant programs that provide monies to universities and community colleges after submission of grant proposals.

[http://www.azleg.state.az.us/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill\\_Number=1517](http://www.azleg.state.az.us/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=1517)

#### **ARKANSAS Signed into Law 04/2005 Postsecondary**

Expands the opportunities for nurses to receive graduate education through the student loan and scholarship program. Defines "advanced nursing practice," "advanced practice nursing" and "nurse administrator." Eliminates definition of "primary care nursing." Allows **Graduate Nurse Educator Loan and Scholarship Board** to provide advanced nursing practice loans. Eliminates requirement that nurse education loans be for rural nurses. Allows loans to be granted to students studying to be a nurse anesthetist, nurse midwife, clinical nurse specialist, or nursing supervisor. Allows nurse educator recipient to teach as a nurse administrator or work as a nursing administrator in an Arkansas complex health care agency for one year. Requires the board to adopt regulations on the requirements for ensuring a pool of advanced nursing practitioners to serve the state with a priority on health professions shortage areas.

<http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/ftproot/bills/2005/public/SB578.pdf>

#### **WYOMING Emergency Rule Adoption 07/2004 Postsecondary**

Establishes emergency rules to make funding available to individuals who wish to pursue a career in nursing and to alleviate a shortage of nurses within a state. Covers definitions, application and approval process, eligibility requirements, loan terms, loan amounts, interest, terms of repayment, and procedures for default.

[WYOMING REG 4505 \(SN\)](#)

#### **RHODE ISLAND Became Law without Governor's Signature 07/2004 Postsecondary**

Addresses the shortage of nurses in health care facilities by establishing a nursing education repayment program to provide loan repayment for nurses who agree to serve in health care facilities for designated periods of time; takes effect upon passage.

[H.B. 7680](#)

#### **CONNECTICUT Signed into Law 06/2004 Community College**

Establishes a **State Nursing Incentive Program** within the Department of Higher Education to provide program assistance to the state's 4 regional community-technical colleges; requires the Office of Workforce Competitiveness to establish a challenge grant program for regional workforce development boards for FY-2004-05.

<http://www.cga.state.ct.us/2004/act/Pa/2004PA-00253-R00HB-05571-PA.htm>

#### **TENNESSEE Signed into law 06/2004 Postsecondary/Community College**

Amends Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49. Requires the Tennessee higher education commission to study and report to the general assembly by February 1, 2005, on the appropriateness and the relevance of current training and educational programs offered by institutions authorized for members of the allied health care professions to determine the extent to which training and educational activities are structured to assure the availability of up to date training that reflects current responsibilities of the various allied health fields. The regionally accredited, degree granting institutions are exempted from this provision. Authorizes the commission to require an institution to publish placement rates and other information indicating actual employment and earnings in relevant occupations post successful completion of offered programs. Creates a special committee to study issues related to the cost and adequacy of certain programs.

<http://www.legislature.state.tn.us/bills/currentga/Chapter/PC0831.pdf>