

House Study Bill 634 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE _____

BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON
HUMAN RESOURCES BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON SMITH)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the nursing workforce and providing for an
2 Iowa needs nurses now initiative.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 84A.11 Nursing workforce data
2 clearinghouse.

3 1. a. The department of workforce development shall
4 establish a nursing workforce data clearinghouse for the
5 purpose of collecting and maintaining data from all available
6 and appropriate sources regarding Iowa's nursing workforce.

7 b. The department of workforce development shall have access
8 to all data regarding Iowa's nursing workforce collected or
9 maintained by any state department or agency to support the
10 data clearinghouse.

11 c. Information maintained in the nursing workforce data
12 clearinghouse shall be available to any state department or
13 agency.

14 2. The department of workforce development shall consult
15 with the board of nursing, the department of public health,
16 the department of education, and other appropriate entities in
17 developing recommendations to determine options for additional
18 data collection.

19 3. The department of workforce development, in consultation
20 with the board of nursing, shall adopt rules pursuant to
21 chapter 17A to administer the data clearinghouse.

22 4. The nursing workforce data clearinghouse shall be
23 established and maintained in a manner consistent with the
24 health care delivery infrastructure and health care workforce
25 resources strategic plan developed pursuant to section 135.164.

26 5. The department of workforce development shall submit a
27 report to the governor and the general assembly, annually by
28 January 15, regarding the nursing workforce data clearinghouse,
29 and, following establishment of the data clearinghouse, the
30 status of the nursing workforce in Iowa.

31 Sec. 2. Section 135.175, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code
32 Supplement 2009, is amended to read as follows:

33 a. A health care workforce support initiative is established
34 to provide for the coordination and support of various efforts
35 to address the health care workforce shortage in this state.

1 This initiative shall include the medical residency training
2 state matching grants program created in section 135.176,
3 the nurse residency training state matching grants program
4 created in section 135.176A, the health care professional and
5 ~~nursing workforce shortage~~ Iowa needs nurses now initiative
6 created in sections 261.128 and 261.129, the safety net
7 provider recruitment and retention initiatives program created
8 in section 135.153A, health care workforce shortage national
9 initiatives, and the physician assistant mental health
10 fellowship program created in section 135.177.

11 Sec. 3. Section 135.175, subsection 5, paragraph b, Code
12 Supplement 2009, is amended to read as follows:

13 b. The health care professional and ~~nurse workforce~~
14 ~~shortage~~ Iowa needs nurses now initiative account. The health
15 care professional and ~~nurse workforce shortage~~ Iowa needs
16 nurses now initiative account shall be under the control of
17 the college student aid commission created in section 261.1
18 and the moneys in the account shall be used for the purposes
19 of the health care professional incentive payment program and
20 the ~~nurse workforce shortage~~ Iowa needs nurses now initiative
21 as specified in sections 261.128 and 261.129. Moneys in the
22 account shall consist of moneys appropriated or allocated
23 for deposit in or received by the fund or the account and
24 specifically dedicated to the health care professional and
25 ~~nurse workforce shortage~~ Iowa needs nurses now initiative or
26 the account for the purposes of the account.

27 Sec. 4. Section 135.175, subsection 5, Code Supplement
28 2009, is amended by adding the following new paragraphs:

29 NEW PARAGRAPH. f. The Iowa needs nurses now infrastructure
30 account. The Iowa needs nurses now infrastructure account
31 shall be under the control of the department and the moneys
32 in the account shall be used to award grants in accordance
33 with rules adopted by the department, in consultation with
34 the board of nursing, the department of education, and a
35 statewide association that represents nurses specified by the

1 director, pursuant to chapter 17A, for clinical simulators,
2 laboratory facilities, health information technology, and other
3 infrastructure to improve the training of nurses and nurse
4 educators in the state and to enhance the clinical experience
5 for nurses. Moneys in the account shall consist of moneys
6 appropriated or allocated for deposit in or received by the
7 fund or the account and specifically dedicated to the Iowa
8 needs nurses now infrastructure account for the purposes of the
9 account.

10 NEW PARAGRAPH. *g.* The nurse residency training state
11 matching grants program account. The nurse residency training
12 state matching grants program account shall be under the
13 control of the department and the moneys in the account shall
14 be used for the purposes of the nurse residency training state
15 matching grants program as specified in section 135.176A.
16 Moneys in the account shall consist of moneys appropriated or
17 allocated for deposit in or received by the fund or the account
18 and specifically dedicated to the nurse residency training
19 state matching grants program account for the purposes of such
20 account.

21 Sec. 5. Section 135.175, subsection 6, paragraph a, Code
22 Supplement 2009, is amended to read as follows:

23 *a.* Moneys in the fund and the accounts in the fund shall
24 only be appropriated in a manner consistent with the principles
25 specified and the strategic plan developed pursuant to sections
26 135.163 and 135.164 to support the medical residency training
27 state matching grants program, the nurse residency training
28 state matching grants program, the health care professional
29 incentive payment program, ~~the nurse educator incentive payment~~
30 ~~and nursing faculty fellowship programs~~ Iowa needs nurses
31 now initiative, the safety net recruitment and retention
32 initiatives program, for national health care workforce
33 shortage initiatives, for the physician assistant mental health
34 fellowship program, for the purposes of the Iowa needs nurses
35 now infrastructure account, and to provide funding for state

1 health care workforce shortage programs as provided in this
2 section.

3 Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. 135.176A Nurse residency training
4 state matching grants program — repeal.

5 1. The department shall establish a nurse residency
6 training state matching grants program to provide matching
7 state funding to sponsors of nurse residency programs in this
8 state to establish, expand, or support nurse residency training
9 programs that meet standards adopted by rule of the department.
10 Funding for the program may be provided through the health care
11 workforce shortage fund or the nurse residency training state
12 matching grants program account created in section 135.175.
13 The department, in cooperation with the Iowa board of nursing,
14 the department of education, Iowa institutions of higher
15 education with licensed programs to educate nurses, and the
16 Iowa nurses association, shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter
17 17A to establish minimum standards for nurse residency programs
18 to be eligible for a matching grant that address all of the
19 following:

20 a. Eligibility requirements for and qualifications of
21 a sponsor of a nurse residency program to receive a grant,
22 including that the program includes both rural and urban
23 components.

24 b. The application process for the grant.

25 c. Criteria for preference in awarding of the grants.

26 d. Determination of the amount of a grant.

27 e. Use of the funds awarded. Funds may be used to pay
28 the costs of establishing, expanding, or supporting a nurse
29 residency program as specified in this section, including but
30 not limited to the costs associated with residency stipends and
31 nursing faculty stipends.

32 2. This section is repealed June 30, 2014.

33 Sec. 7. Section 261.2, subsection 10, Code Supplement 2009,
34 is amended to read as follows:

35 10. Administer the health care professional incentive

1 payment program established in section 261.128 and the ~~nursing~~
2 ~~workforce shortage~~ Iowa needs nurses now initiative created in
3 section 261.129. This subsection is repealed June 30, 2014.

4 Sec. 8. Section 261.128, subsection 1, Code Supplement
5 2009, is amended to read as follows:

6 1. The commission shall establish a health care
7 professional incentive payment program to recruit and retain
8 health care professionals in this state. Funding for the
9 program may be provided through the health care workforce
10 shortage fund or the health care professional and ~~nurse~~
11 ~~workforce shortage~~ Iowa needs nurses now initiative account
12 created in section 135.175.

13 Sec. 9. Section 261.129, Code Supplement 2009, is amended
14 to read as follows:

15 **261.129 ~~Nursing workforce shortage~~ Iowa needs nurses**
16 **now initiative — repeal.**

17 1. *Nurse educator incentive payment program.*

18 a. The commission shall establish a nurse educator incentive
19 payment program. Funding for the program may be provided
20 through the health care workforce shortage fund or the health
21 care professional and ~~nurse workforce shortage~~ Iowa needs
22 nurses now initiative account created in section 135.175.

23 For the purposes of this subsection, “*nurse educator*” means
24 a registered nurse who holds a master’s degree or doctorate
25 degree and is employed as a faculty member who teaches nursing
26 in a nursing education program as provided in 655 IAC 2.6 at
27 a community college, an accredited private institution, or an
28 institution of higher education governed by the state board of
29 regents.

30 b. The program shall consist of incentive payments to
31 recruit and retain nurse educators. The program shall provide
32 for incentive payments of up to twenty thousand dollars for a
33 nurse educator who remains teaching in a qualifying teaching
34 position for a period of not less than four consecutive
35 academic years.

1 c. The nurse educator and the commission shall enter into an
2 agreement specifying the obligations of the nurse educator and
3 the commission. If the nurse educator leaves the qualifying
4 teaching position prior to teaching for four consecutive
5 academic years, the nurse educator shall be liable to repay
6 the incentive payment amount to the state, plus interest as
7 specified by rule. However, if the nurse educator leaves
8 the qualifying teaching position involuntarily, the nurse
9 educator shall be liable to repay only a pro rata amount of the
10 incentive payment based on incompleting years of service.

11 d. The commission, in consultation with the department
12 of public health, the board of nursing, the department of
13 education, and the Iowa nurses association, shall adopt rules
14 pursuant to chapter 17A relating to the establishment and
15 administration of the nurse educator incentive payment program.
16 The rules shall include provisions specifying what constitutes
17 a qualifying teaching position.

18 2. *Nursing faculty fellowship program.*

19 a. The commission shall establish a nursing faculty
20 fellowship program to provide funds to nursing schools in the
21 state, including but not limited to nursing schools located at
22 community colleges, for fellowships for individuals employed
23 in qualifying positions on the nursing faculty. Funding for
24 the program may be provided through the health care workforce
25 shortage fund or the health care professional and nurse
26 ~~workforce shortage~~ the Iowa needs nurses now initiative account
27 created in section 135.175. The program shall be designed
28 to assist nursing schools in filling vacancies in qualifying
29 positions throughout the state.

30 b. The commission, in consultation with the department
31 of public health, the board of nursing, the department of
32 education, and the Iowa nurses association, and in cooperation
33 with nursing schools throughout the state, shall develop a
34 distribution formula which shall provide that no more than
35 thirty percent of the available moneys are awarded to a single

1 nursing school. Additionally, the program shall limit funding
2 for a qualifying position in a nursing school to no more than
3 ten thousand dollars per year for up to three years.

4 c. The commission, in consultation with the department
5 of public health, the board of nursing, the department of
6 education, and the Iowa nurses association, shall adopt
7 rules pursuant to chapter 17A to administer the program. The
8 rules shall include provisions specifying what constitutes a
9 qualifying position at a nursing school.

10 d. In determining eligibility for a fellowship, the
11 commission shall consider all of the following:

12 (1) The length of time a qualifying position has gone
13 unfilled at a nursing school.

14 (2) Documented recruiting efforts by a nursing school.

15 (3) The geographic location of a nursing school.

16 (4) The type of nursing program offered at the nursing
17 school, including associate, bachelor's, master's, or doctoral
18 degrees in nursing, and the need for the specific nursing
19 program in the state.

20 3. Nurse educator scholarship program.

21 a. The commission shall establish a nurse educator
22 scholarship program. Funding for the program may be provided
23 through the health care workforce shortage fund or the health
24 care professional and the Iowa needs nurses now initiative
25 account created in section 135.175. The goal of the nurse
26 educator scholarship program is to address the waiting list of
27 qualified applicants to Iowa's nursing schools by providing
28 incentives for the training of additional nursing educators.
29 For the purposes of this subsection, "nurse educator" means
30 a registered nurse who holds a master's degree or doctorate
31 degree and is employed as a faculty member who teaches nursing
32 in a nursing education program as provided in 655 IAC 2.6 at
33 a community college, an accredited private institution, or an
34 institution of higher education governed by the state board of
35 regents.

1 b. The program shall consist of scholarships to train
2 nurses to become nurse educators. The program shall provide
3 for scholarship payments in an amount established by rule for a
4 nurse educator who commits to teaching in a qualifying teaching
5 position for a period of not less than four consecutive
6 academic years.

7 c. The scholarship recipient and the commission shall
8 enter into an agreement specifying the obligations of the
9 applicant and the commission. If the nurse educator leaves
10 the qualifying teaching position prior to teaching for four
11 consecutive academic years, the nurse educator shall be liable
12 to repay the scholarship amount to the state, plus interest
13 as specified by rule. However, if the nurse educator leaves
14 the qualifying teaching position involuntarily, the nurse
15 educator shall be liable to repay only a pro rata amount of the
16 scholarship amount based on incompleting years of service.

17 d. The receipt of a nurse educator scholarship shall
18 not impact eligibility of an individual for other financial
19 incentives including but not limited to loan-forgiveness
20 programs.

21 e. The commission, in consultation with the department
22 of public health, the board of nursing, the department of
23 education, and the Iowa nurses association, shall adopt rules
24 pursuant to chapter 17A relating to the establishment and
25 administration of the nurse educator scholarship program. The
26 rules shall include provisions specifying what constitutes a
27 qualifying teaching position and the amount of any scholarship.

28 ~~3.~~ 4. Repeal. This section is repealed June 30, 2014.

29 Sec. 10. BOARD OF NURSING — DATA COLLECTION REGARDING
30 NURSING WORKFORCE. The board of nursing shall replace
31 its existing database and data platform to allow for the
32 maintenance of archival information and enhanced public access
33 and shall update its nursing survey instrument to ensure the
34 collection of more complete and usable data in assessing Iowa's
35 nursing workforce.

1 Sec. 11. CODE EDITOR DIRECTIVE. The Code editor shall
2 amend the title of the division in chapter 261, which includes
3 section 261.129, as amended in this Act, as the Iowa needs
4 nurses now initiative.

5 Sec. 12. IMPLEMENTATION. This Act shall be implemented only
6 to the extent funding is available.

7 EXPLANATION

8 This bill includes provisions relating to the nursing
9 workforce.

10 The bill directs the department of workforce development
11 to establish a nursing workforce data clearinghouse for
12 the purpose of collecting and maintaining data from all
13 available and appropriate sources regarding Iowa's nursing
14 workforce. The department is to have access to all data
15 regarding Iowa's nursing workforce collected or maintained
16 by any state department or agency to support the data
17 clearinghouse, and the information maintained in the nursing
18 workforce data clearinghouse is to be available to any state
19 department or agency. The bill directs the department of
20 workforce development to consult with the board of nursing,
21 the department of public health (DPH), the department of
22 education, and other appropriate entities in developing
23 recommendations to determine options for additional data
24 collection. The bill provides rulemaking authority to the
25 department of workforce development in consultation with the
26 board of nursing to administer the data clearinghouse, and
27 directs that a nursing workforce data clearinghouse shall be
28 established and maintained in a manner consistent with the
29 health care delivery infrastructure and health care workforce
30 resources strategic plan developed by DPH. The bill requires
31 the department of workforce development to submit an annual
32 report to the governor and the general assembly regarding the
33 data clearinghouse, and, following its establishment, the
34 status of the nursing workforce in Iowa.

35 The bill changes the name of the nursing workforce shortage

1 initiative within the health care workforce support initiative
2 to the Iowa needs nurses now initiative and makes a similar
3 change to the name of the account for the initiative. The
4 bill also requires the college student aid commission, which
5 currently controls the Iowa needs nurses now initiative, to
6 consult with the Iowa board of nursing, the department of
7 education, and the Iowa nurses association in adopting rules
8 and distributing funds.

9 The bill also adds two accounts to the health care workforce
10 shortage fund: the Iowa needs nurses now infrastructure
11 account under the control of DPH to provide for the awarding
12 of grants for clinical simulators, laboratory facilities,
13 health information technology, and other infrastructure to
14 improve the training of nurses and nurse educators in the
15 state and to enhance the clinical experience for nurses; and
16 the nurse residency training state matching grants program
17 account under the control of DPH to provide matching state
18 funding to sponsors of nurse residency programs in this state
19 to establish, expand, or support nurse residency training
20 programs that meet standards adopted by rule of DPH. The
21 bill also specifies the parameters of the grant program. The
22 bill adds a nurse educator scholarship program as one of the
23 components of the Iowa needs nurses now initiative with the
24 goal of addressing the waiting list of qualified applicants
25 to Iowa's nursing schools by providing incentives for the
26 training of additional nursing educators. The bill specifies
27 the parameters of the scholarship program.

28 The bill also provides that implementation is subject to the
29 extent of funding available.