

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.  
Act 672 of the Regular Session

State of Arkansas  
94th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2023

As Engrossed: S2/22/23 S3/28/23  
**A Bill**

SENATE BILL 299

By: Senator K. Hammer

By: Representatives Cavanaugh, Bentley, Vaught, *Wardlaw*

### For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH NURSING EARN-TO-LEARN PROGRAMS;  
TO AUTHORIZE A NURSING STUDENT TO EARN DIRECT PATIENT  
CARE CLINICAL CREDIT HOURS FOR WORKING IN A  
HEALTHCARE FACILITY IN CERTAIN JOBS; AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES.

### Subtitle

TO ESTABLISH NURSING EARN-TO-LEARN  
PROGRAMS; AND TO AUTHORIZE A NURSING  
STUDENT TO EARN DIRECT PATIENT CARE  
CLINICAL CREDIT HOURS FOR WORKING IN A  
HEALTHCARE FACILITY IN CERTAIN JOBS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 82, is amended to add an  
additional subchapter to read as follows:

Subchapter 22 – Nursing Earn-to-Learn Programs

6-82-2201. Definitions.

As used in this subchapter:

(1) "Healthcare facility" means an office or institution  
providing:

(A) Care or treatment of diseases, whether physical,  
mental, or emotional, or other medical, physiological, or psychological  
conditions; or



(B) Nursing clinical hours to a nursing program; and  
(2) "Nursing program" means a nursing training or education program with its primary headquarters located in Arkansas that:

- (A) Prepares students as nurses;
- (B) Grants nursing diplomas; and
- (C) Is approved by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing.

6-82-2202. Nursing earn-to-learn programs.

(a)(1) A nursing program may establish a nursing earn-to-learn program to allow a nursing student who is seeking an initial licensure as a licensed practical nurse or a registered nurse to earn direct patient care clinical credit hours while working in a healthcare facility as a certified nursing assistant, patient care technician, or other job with a similar title.

(2) A nursing student may not work greater than twenty (20) hours per week as a certified nursing assistant, patient care technician, or other job with a similar title.

(3) The direct patient clinical credit hours earned under this section shall not exceed fifty percent (50%) of the direct patient care clinical credit hours outlined in the foundational curricula of the nursing program or the senior level curricula of the nursing program.

(b)(1) If a healthcare facility offers an advanced patient care position within the roles listed in subdivision (a)(1) of this section or with an additional position specifically for senior-level nursing students, then a senior-level nursing student may be allowed to receive credit for senior-level direct patient care clinical hours.

(2) A senior-level nursing student who is working in an advanced nursing role shall work with at least one (1) nurse but not more than two (2) nurses to protect patient safety and to allow for a focused, quality student experience.

(3) The nursing program and the healthcare facility shall establish boundaries and expectations of the senior-level nursing student based on accreditation standards and rules of the Arkansas State Board of Nursing.

(c) A nursing program and a healthcare facility shall collaborate to establish a standardized student evaluation process.

(d) A healthcare facility participating in a nursing earn-to-learn

program shall identify at least one (1) nurse supervisor or clinical nurse educator to oversee the nursing students.

*/s/K. Hammer*

**APPROVED: 4/11/23**