

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

State of Arkansas
84th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2003

A Bill

SENATE BILL 2

By: Senator Gullett
By: Representatives Dees, Lendall

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE
COMMISSION ON NURSING.

Subtitle

TO ESTABLISH THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE
COMMISSION ON NURSING.

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

SECTION 1. Purpose.

The purposes of this act are:

(1) To study the status of the nursing and nurse educator shortage in Arkansas and the economic impact of these shortages on the healthcare industry;

(2) To project the need for nurses and nurse educators in the state over the next ten (10) years;

(3) To develop a strategic statewide plan to ensure an appropriately prepared nursing and nurse educator workforce;

(4) To convene stakeholders from nursing education, the healthcare industry, business, the legislature, and the public; and

(5) To enhance and promote recruitment, retention, advancement, recognition, reward, and renewal activities for nurses in Arkansas.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Legislative Commission on Nursing.

(a)(1) There is established the Arkansas Legislative Commission on Nursing to be composed of the following voting members:

1 (A) Two (2) members of the House Interim Committee on
 2 Public Health, Welfare, and Labor appointed by the Chair of the committee;
 3 and

4 (B) Two (2) members of the Senate Interim Committee on
 5 Public Health, Welfare, and Labor appointed by the Chair of the committee;
 6 and

7 (2) The following nonvoting members:

8 (A) The President and the Executive Director of the
 9 Arkansas Nurses Association;

10 (B) The President of the Arkansas Nursing Students
 11 Association or a designee;

12 (C) The President and the Executive Director of the State
 13 Board of Nursing;

14 (D) The President of the Arkansas Organization of Nurse
 15 Executives or a designee;

16 (E) The President of the Little Rock Black Nurses
 17 Association or a designee;

18 (F) The President of the Public Health Nurses Association
 19 or a designee;

20 (G) The President of the Licensed Practical Nurses
 21 Association or a designee;

22 (H) The President of the Nurse Administrators of Nursing
 23 Education Programs or a designee;

24 (I) The President of the Arkansas Hospital Association or
 25 a designee;

26 (J) The President of the Arkansas Medical Society or a
 27 designee;

28 (K) The President of the Arkansas Healthcare Association
 29 or a designee;

30 (L) The President of the HomeCare Association of Arkansas
 31 or a designee;

32 (M) The President of the Arkansas State Chamber of
 33 Commerce and Associated Industries of Arkansas and two (2) persons appointed
 34 by the president;

35 (N) The President of the Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation
 36 or a designee; and

1 (0) Two (2) members appointed by the Governor, one (1) of
2 whom shall represent consumers.

3 (b) The commission shall:

4 (1) Receive staff and clerical support from the Legislative
5 Council; and

6 (2) Report its findings and strategic plan for meeting the
7 nursing workforce needs of the state to the Legislative Council by November
8 1, 2004.

9 (c) The commission shall expire on June 30, 2005.

10 (d) Legislator members shall be entitled to reimbursement for expenses
11 and per diem at the same rate and from the same source as provided by law for
12 members of the General Assembly attending meetings of interim committees.

13 (e) The commission shall select a chairperson from its voting
14 membership.

15 (f)(1) A majority of the voting membership of the commission shall
16 constitute a quorum.

17 (2) A majority vote of those voting members present shall be
18 required for any action of the commission.

19 (g) Vacancies on the commission due to death, resignation, or other
20 causes shall be filled in the same manner as is provided in this act for
21 initial appointments.

22 (h) Commission meetings shall be held in Pulaski County, Arkansas.

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24 SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
25 General Assembly that the Arkansas Legislative Commission on Nursing created
26 by Act 1465 of 2001 expires June 30, 2003; that its work should continue for
27 another biennium; and that unless this emergency clause is adopted there will
28 be a gap in its work effort and its momentum might be lost. Therefore, an
29 emergency is declared to exist and this act being necessary for the
30 preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall become effective on
31 July 1, 2003.