

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 7, 2002  
AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 24, 2002  
AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 11, 2002

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 1493**

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**Introduced by Senator Alpert**  
**(Coauthor: Senator McPherson)**

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Alquist, Kehoe, Vargas, and Zettel)

February 19, 2002

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*An act to amend Section 66903.5 of the Education Code, relating to nursing education, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1493, as amended, Alpert. ~~Nursing education: nursing shortage pilot project.~~

*Existing law requires the California Postsecondary Education Commission to conduct, or contract to conduct, a review and analysis of California community college districts' admission procedures and attrition rates for their 2-year associate degree nursing programs; and to submit findings of the review and analysis, along with relevant recommendations, to the Governor and the Legislature on or before January 10, 2003.*

*This bill would specifically require the commission in conducting the above review and analysis to include a review and analysis of the admission procedures of the nursing programs at Grossmont College, Palomar College, San Diego City College, and Southwestern College.*

*The bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.*

~~Existing law establishes the California Community Colleges under the administration of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. Existing law authorizes the establishment of community college districts under the administration of community college governing boards, and authorizes these districts to provide instruction at community college campuses throughout the state. Existing law requires the board of governors to appoint a chief executive officer, known as the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges.~~

This bill would establish a nursing shortage pilot project in San Diego County under the administration of the chancellor. The project would consist of nursing academies at each of 4 public high schools in that county. Through articulation agreements with local community college districts, participants in the program would be afforded an opportunity for special placement in an associate degree nursing program.

~~The bill would require the chancellor to seek funding for the pilot program from funds available under the federal Workforce Investment Act of 1988, the private sector, and health-related foundations for allocation to the participating districts for laboratory costs and equipment and staffing costs and for administrative costs. The bill would declare the intent of the Legislature that any and all amounts allocated to community college districts or school districts pursuant to the bill not be counted towards the state’s minimum funding obligation for community college districts and school districts. The bill would require the chancellor to transmit a report to the Legislature for each year of the pilot project, and would require the first of these annual reports to be submitted no later than June 30, 2004.~~

Vote: majority <sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 ~~SECTION 1.~~ (a) ~~The Legislature finds and declares all of the~~
- 2 *SECTION 1. Section 66903.5 of the Education Code is*
- 3 *amended to read:*
- 4 66903.5. (a) The commission shall conduct, or contract to
- 5 conduct, a review and analysis of California community college
- 6 districts’ admission procedures and attrition rates for their
- 7 two-year associate degree nursing programs. The review and
- 8 analysis shall include, but not necessarily be limited to,



1 information regarding the admission procedures and attrition rates  
2 for the Los Angeles County College of Nursing and Allied Health  
3 and other relevant nursing programs, *and information regarding*  
4 *the admission procedures of the nursing programs at Grossmont*  
5 *College, Palomar College, San Diego City College, and*  
6 *Southwestern College*, to the extent that information is available.  
7 The commission shall submit findings of the review and analysis,  
8 along with relevant recommendations, to the Governor and the  
9 Legislature on or before January 10, 2003.

10 (b) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1,  
11 2004, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute  
12 that is enacted before January 1, 2004, deletes or extends that date.

13 *SEC. 2. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the*  
14 *immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety*  
15 *within the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go*  
16 *into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:*

17 *In order that the California Postsecondary Education*  
18 *Commission specifically consider the admission procedures of the*  
19 *two-year associate degree nursing programs at Grossmont*  
20 *College, Palomar College, San Diego City College, and*  
21 *Southwestern College in its current nursing program review and*  
22 *analysis, it is necessary that this act take effect immediately.*

23 *following:*

24 ~~(1) California is currently experiencing a nurse shortage, and~~  
25 ~~it ranks 49th in the nation in the number of registered nurses (RNs)~~  
26 ~~per 100,000 population. California has 585 RNs per 100,000~~  
27 ~~population, compared with the national average of 798 RNs per~~  
28 ~~100,000 population. By 2006, California will need 45,000 new~~  
29 ~~RNs and 28,000 replacement RNs.~~

30 ~~(2) Half of California's RNs were educated in another state or~~  
31 ~~country. The Board of Registered Nursing estimates that there has~~  
32 ~~been a 26 percent decrease over the last seven years in the~~  
33 ~~percentage of nurses who migrate to California from other states~~  
34 ~~and countries. This decline can be attributed to several factors,~~  
35 ~~including both of the following:~~

36 ~~(A) As a group, nurses across the country are aging,~~  
37 ~~accelerating the time to retirement or reduction in working hours.~~  
38 ~~In California, 60 percent of RNs are over the age of 40, and 50~~  
39 ~~percent of RNs will retire in the next 15 years.~~



1 ~~(B) Nurses are less willing to relocate because of their strong~~  
2 ~~ties to their communities.~~

3 ~~(3) In 1999, the Legislature passed, and the Governor signed,~~  
4 ~~a law requiring the development of licensed nurse-to-patient~~  
5 ~~staffing ratios. Early in 2002, the Governor released a set of~~  
6 ~~proposed nurse-to-patient ratios. Due to the shortage of nurses,~~  
7 ~~and depending on the nurse staffing ratios that are scheduled to~~  
8 ~~take effect in 2003, hospital units across the state may close in~~  
9 ~~order for the hospitals to comply with the new regulations. The~~  
10 ~~expected cost of compliance for each San Diego County hospital~~  
11 ~~is between \$1,000,000 and \$3,000,000. At present, 65 percent of~~  
12 ~~California hospitals operate at a loss.~~

13 ~~(4) Hospitals cannot hire the number of nurses they need and~~  
14 ~~want due to the nationwide shortage of nurses. Currently, hospitals~~  
15 ~~in San Diego County have a shortfall of 800 to 1,000 nurses on any~~  
16 ~~given day. In 2001, San Diego County hospitals had combined~~  
17 ~~vacancies totaling more than 1,000 nurses.~~

18 ~~(5) Seventy percent of California-educated RNs are associate~~  
19 ~~degree graduates. Each year, San Diego County community~~  
20 ~~college nursing programs turn away between 50 and 150 qualified~~  
21 ~~applicants.~~

22 ~~(6) Career-oriented academics in our high schools have proven~~  
23 ~~to be a highly effective approach to raising academic achievement~~  
24 ~~and job preparedness for pupils by integrating career mentoring~~  
25 ~~and school- and work-based learning into the formal academic~~  
26 ~~curriculum.~~

27 ~~(7) San Diego County is uniquely situated to conduct the pilot~~  
28 ~~project established by the act adding this section. San Diego~~  
29 ~~County has a strong history of public-private partnerships and a~~  
30 ~~track record for new projects such as the Nurses Now program at~~  
31 ~~San Diego State University and the Business Healthcare~~  
32 ~~Connection.~~

33 ~~(b) It is, therefore, the intent of the Legislature, in an effort to~~  
34 ~~better address this public health crisis, to establish a three-year~~  
35 ~~nurse shortage pilot project under the administration of the~~  
36 ~~Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, and including~~  
37 ~~the participation of local community college districts, local school~~  
38 ~~districts, San Diego State University, and the San Diego~~  
39 ~~Workforce Partnership, which would focus on early recruitment~~  
40 ~~and training of San Diego County high school pupils by~~



1 stimulating their interest in a career in nursing and facilitating their  
2 transfer into nursing programs at the community college level.

3 ~~SEC. 2. (a) (1) A three-year nurse shortage pilot project is~~  
4 ~~hereby established under the administration of the Chancellor of~~  
5 ~~the California Community Colleges, and including the~~  
6 ~~participation of local community college districts, local school~~  
7 ~~districts, San Diego State University, and the San Diego~~  
8 ~~Workforce Partnership. Under the project, nursing academies shall~~  
9 ~~be established at each of four public high schools in San Diego~~  
10 ~~County. In partnership with nursing programs and health industry~~  
11 ~~leaders, these participating high schools shall offer curriculum and~~  
12 ~~work-study programs pursuant to articulation agreements entered~~  
13 ~~into between the school districts of which the high schools are a~~  
14 ~~part and participating community college districts. These~~  
15 ~~programs shall afford participants with an opportunity for special~~  
16 ~~placement in associate degree nursing programs in community~~  
17 ~~colleges for pupils who satisfactorily complete their studies at the~~  
18 ~~nursing academies.~~

19 ~~(2) Participants in the pilot project shall include Grossmont~~  
20 ~~College, Palomar College, San Diego City College, Southwestern~~  
21 ~~College, Oceanside High School, and three other high schools as~~  
22 ~~designated by the Grossmont Union High School District, the San~~  
23 ~~Diego Unified School District, and the Sweetwater Union High~~  
24 ~~School District.~~

25 ~~(b) Funding for this pilot project shall be sought by the~~  
26 ~~Chancellor of the California Community Colleges from funds~~  
27 ~~available under the federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29~~  
28 ~~U.S.C. Sec. 2801 et seq.). Additional matching funds shall be~~  
29 ~~sought by the chancellor from the private sector and health-related~~  
30 ~~foundations. Those funds shall be allocated to support the~~  
31 ~~following:~~

32 ~~(1) Laboratory costs and equipment needed by community~~  
33 ~~college districts and school districts participating in the pilot~~  
34 ~~program.~~

35 ~~(2) Staffing costs for community college districts and school~~  
36 ~~districts participating in the pilot program.~~

37 ~~(3) Administrative costs of the pilot program, including the~~  
38 ~~administrative costs of the chancellor's office in administrating the~~  
39 ~~pilot program. A full report of the administrative costs shall be~~



1 submitted by the chancellor to the Legislature at the completion of  
2 the pilot project.  
3 ~~(4) San Diego State University for the enhancement of faculty~~  
4 ~~support for the Nurses Now program. A representative from San~~  
5 ~~Diego State University's nursing program shall work directly with~~  
6 ~~the community colleges involved in this pilot project on an~~  
7 ~~articulation agreement between community colleges and~~  
8 ~~institutions that grant baccalaureate degrees. The graduation~~  
9 ~~figures from the Nurses Now program shall be included in the~~  
10 ~~annual report to the Legislature prepared under subdivision (d).~~  
11 ~~(e) It is the intent of the Legislature that any and all amounts~~  
12 ~~allocated to community college districts or school districts~~  
13 ~~pursuant to subdivision (b) shall not be counted towards the state's~~  
14 ~~minimum funding obligation to school districts and community~~  
15 ~~college districts pursuant to Section 8 of Article XVI of the~~  
16 ~~California Constitution.~~  
17 ~~(d) For each year of the pilot project, the chancellor shall~~  
18 ~~transmit a report to the Legislature with respect to the operation~~  
19 ~~and results of the pilot project established by this section. The first~~  
20 ~~report to the Legislature under this subdivision shall be submitted~~  
21 ~~no later than June 30, 2004.~~

