

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 29, 2007

AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 18, 2007

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 20, 2007

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 25, 2007

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 10, 2007

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2007—08 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1559

Introduced by Assembly Member Berryhill

(Principal coauthor: Senator Scott)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Adams, Anderson, Benoit, Blakeslee, DeVore, Gaines, Galgiani, Houston, Maze, Nakanishi, Silva, Smyth, Strickland, Tran, and Villines)

February 23, 2007

An act to add and repeal Section 78261.5 of the Education Code, relating to public postsecondary education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1559, as amended, Berryhill. Public postsecondary education: community college registered *nursing* programs.

Existing law establishes the California Community Colleges under the administration of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. Existing law establishes community college districts throughout the state, under the administration of community college district governing boards, and authorizes these districts to provide instruction at the community college campuses they operate.

This bill would require a community college registered nursing program that elects to use a multicriteria screening process on or after January 1, 2008, to evaluate applicants for admission to nursing programs to include specified criteria relating to the academic performance, work or volunteer experience, foreign language skills, life experiences, and special circumstances of the applicant. The bill would authorize a community college registered nursing program using a multicriteria screening process to use an approved diagnostic assessment tool before, during, or after the multicriteria screening process. The bill would require a district that uses multicriteria screening measures to report its nursing program admissions policies to the chancellor annually, in writing.

The bill would repeal these provisions on January 1, 2016.

The bill would require the Legislative Analyst’s Office to evaluate the use and efficacy of the admissions process for community college registered nursing programs, and to report its findings and any related recommendations to the Legislature as part of its annual analysis of the Budget Bill, commencing with its analysis of the Budget Bill for the 2009–10 fiscal year.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

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

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 78261.5 is added to the Education Code,
- 2 to read:
- 3 78261.5. (a) A community college registered nursing program
- 4 that determines that the number of applicants to that program
- 5 exceeds its capacity may admit students in accordance with any
- 6 of the following procedures:
- 7 (1) Administration of a multicriteria screening process, as
- 8 authorized by Section 78261.3, in a manner that is consistent with
- 9 the standards set forth in subdivision (b).
- 10 (2) A random selection process.
- 11 (3) A blended combination of random selection and a
- 12 multicriteria screening process.
- 13 (b) A community college registered nursing program that elects,
- 14 on or after January 1, 2008, to use a multicriteria screening process
- 15 to evaluate applicants pursuant to this article shall apply those
- 16 measures in accordance with all of the following:

1 (1) The criteria applied in a multicriteria screening process under
2 this article shall include, but shall not necessarily be limited to, all
3 of the following:

4 (A) Academic degrees or diplomas, or relevant certificates, held
5 by an applicant.

6 (B) Grade-point average in relevant coursework.

7 (C) Any relevant work or volunteer experience.

8 (D) Life experiences or special circumstances of an applicant,
9 including, but not necessarily limited to, the following experiences
10 or circumstances:

11 (i) Disabilities.

12 (ii) Low family income.

13 (iii) First generation of family to attend college.

14 (iv) Need to work.

15 (v) Disadvantaged social or educational environment.

16 (vi) Difficult personal and family situations or circumstances.

17 (vii) Refugee or veteran status.

18 (E) Proficiency or advanced level coursework in languages other
19 than English. Credit for languages other than English shall be
20 received for languages that are identified by the chancellor as
21 high-frequency languages, as based on census data. These
22 languages may include, but are not necessarily limited to, any of
23 the following:

24 (i) American Sign Language.

25 (ii) Arabic.

26 (iii) Chinese, including its various dialects.

27 (iv) Farsi.

28 (v) Russian.

29 (vi) Spanish.

30 (vii) Tagalog.

31 (viii) The various languages of the Indian subcontinent and
32 Southeast Asia.

33 (2) Additional criteria, such as a personal interview, a personal
34 statement, letter of recommendation, or the number of repetitions
35 of prerequisite classes, or other criteria, as approved by the
36 chancellor, may be used, but are not required.

37 (3) A community college registered nursing program using a
38 multicriteria screening process under this article may use an
39 approved diagnostic assessment tool, in accordance with Section
40 78261.3, before, during, or after the multicriteria screening process.

1 (4) As used in this section:

2 (A) “Disabilities” has the same meaning as used in Section 2626
3 of the Unemployment Insurance Code.

4 (B) “Disadvantaged social or educational environment” includes,
5 but is not necessarily limited to, the status of a student who has
6 participated in Extended Opportunity Programs and Services
7 (EOPS).

8 (C) “Grade-point average” refers to the same fixed set of
9 required prerequisite courses that all applicants to the nursing
10 program administering the multicriteria screening process are
11 required to complete.

12 (D) “Low family income” shall be measured by a community
13 college registered nursing program in terms of a student’s eligibility
14 for, or receipt of, financial aid under a program that may include,
15 but is not necessarily limited to, a fee waiver from the board of
16 governors under Section 76300, the Cal Grant Program under
17 Chapter 1.7 (commencing with Section 69430) of Part 42 of
18 Division 5, the federal Pell Grant program, or CalWORKs.

19 (E) “Need to work” means that the student is working at least
20 part time while completing academic work that is a prerequisite
21 for admission to the nursing program.

22 (5) A community college registered nursing program that uses
23 a multicriteria screening process pursuant to this article shall report
24 its nursing program admissions policies to the chancellor annually,
25 in writing. The admissions policies reported under this paragraph
26 shall include the weight given to any criteria used by the program,
27 and shall include demographic information relating to both the
28 persons admitted to the program and the persons of that group who
29 successfully completed that program.

30 (c) The chancellor ~~shall~~ *is encouraged to* develop, and make
31 available to community college registered nursing programs by
32 July 1, 2008, a model admissions process based on ~~the provisions~~
33 ~~of~~ this section.

34 (d) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2016,
35 and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that
36 is enacted before January 1, 2016, deletes or extends that date.

37 SEC. 2. The Legislative Analyst’s Office shall evaluate the
38 use and efficacy of the admissions process for community college
39 registered nursing programs. The Legislative Analyst’s Office
40 shall report its findings and any related recommendations to the

- 1 Legislature as part of its annual analysis of the Budget Bill,
- 2 commencing with its analysis of the Budget Bill for the 2009–10
- 3 fiscal year.

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