

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 867**

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**Introduced by Assembly Members Nava and Arambula**

**(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Galgiani)**

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Beall, Block, Carter, Coto, Davis, De Leon, DeVore, Hagman, Huber, Bonnie Lowenthal, Mendoza, Monning, John A. Perez, Price, Ruskin, Salas, Saldana, and Villines)**

**(Coauthors: Senators Alquist, Ashburn, Benoit, Correa, Cox, DeSaulnier, Ducheny, Florez, Lowenthal, Maldonado, Romero, and Runner)**

February 26, 2009

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An act to add Article 9 (commencing with Section 89280) to Chapter 2 of Part 55 of Division 8 of Title 3 of the Education Code, relating to nursing degrees.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 867, as introduced, Nava. California State University: Doctor of Nursing Practice degree.

Existing law establishes the California State University and its various campuses under the administration of the Trustees of the California State University. Existing law requires the California State University to offer undergraduate and graduate instruction through the master's degree in the liberal arts and sciences and professional education, including teacher education.

This bill would authorize the California State University to award the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree. The bill would distinguish the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from research-based doctoral degrees offered at the University of California. The bill would require the programs to be designed to enable professionals to earn the degree while working

full time, train nurses for advanced practice, and prepare faculty to teach in postsecondary nursing programs.

The bill would require initial funding to come from existing budgets, without diminishing the quality of undergraduate programs or reducing enrollment therein.

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. The Legislature finds and declares all of the  
2 following:

3 (a) The State of California faces an ever-increasing nursing  
4 shortage that jeopardizes the health and well-being of the state’s  
5 citizens.

6 (b) Colleges and universities need to expand nursing education  
7 programs to prepare more nurses to meet the state’s growing  
8 demand for nurses. An estimated state shortage of 47,600 registered  
9 nurses is expected by 2010, and by 2020 the shortage is projected  
10 to reach 116,600 according to the Governor’s California Nurse  
11 Education Initiative Annual Report, September 2006.

12 (c) Well-trained nursing faculty are critical to the ability to  
13 expand nursing programs.

14 SEC. 2. Article 9 (commencing with Section 89280) is added  
15 to Chapter 2 of Part 55 of Division 8 of Title 3 of the Education  
16 Code, to read:

17  
18 Article 9. Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree  
19

20 89280. (a) Notwithstanding Section 66010.4, in order to meet  
21 specific nursing education needs in California, the California State  
22 University may award the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree, as  
23 described in this section.

24 (b) The authority to award the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree  
25 is limited to the discipline of nursing practice. The Doctor of  
26 Nursing Practice degree offered by the California State University  
27 shall be distinguished from research-based doctoral degrees offered  
28 at the University of California.

29 (c) The Doctor of Nursing Practice degree program offered by  
30 the California State University shall train nurses for advanced

1 nursing practice and prepare faculty to teach in postsecondary  
2 nursing education programs. The degree programs shall be  
3 designed to enable professionals to earn the degree while working  
4 full time.

5 (d) The California State University shall follow all of the  
6 following requirements:

7 (1) Funding on a per full-time equivalent student (FTES) basis  
8 for each new student in these degree programs shall be within the  
9 California State University's enrollment growth levels as agreed  
10 to in the annual Budget Act. Enrollments in these programs shall  
11 not alter the California State University's ratio of graduate  
12 instruction to total enrollment, and shall not diminish enrollment  
13 growth in university undergraduate programs. Funding provided  
14 from the state for each FTES shall be at the agreed-upon marginal  
15 costs calculation that the California State University receives for  
16 graduate enrollment.

17 (2) Each student in the programs authorized by this article shall  
18 be charged fees in an amount that is no higher than the rate charged  
19 for students in state-supported doctoral degree programs at the  
20 University of California, including joint programs of the California  
21 State University and the University of California.

22 (3) The California State University shall provide any initial  
23 funding needed for the programs authorized by this article from  
24 within existing budgets for academic programs support, without  
25 diminishing the quality of program support offered to California  
26 State University undergraduate programs. Funding of these  
27 programs shall not reduce undergraduate enrollments at the  
28 California State University.