

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 24, 1995
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 30, 1995

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1995–96 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1409

Introduced by Assembly Member Valerie Brown

February 24, 1995

An act to add Article 8.7 (commencing with Section 1336.5) to Chapter 2 of Division 2 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to geriatric technicians, ~~and making an appropriation therefor.~~

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1409, as amended, V. Brown. Geriatric technicians: ~~certification~~ *pilot project.*

~~Existing law provides for the licensure of long-term health care facilities and for the certification of nurse assistants by the State Department of Health Services.~~

Existing law authorizes the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development to approve health manpower pilot projects in certain fields, including pilot projects involving geriatric care personnel.

This bill would state the findings and declarations of the Legislature regarding the need for adequately trained personnel to meet the needs of residents in long-term health care facilities. ~~This bill would require the department to certify geriatric technicians who are certified nurse assistants~~

~~in good standing and who have completed a training program approved by the department.~~

This bill would extend, through December 31, 1999, a particular health manpower pilot project involving the use of geriatric technicians in long-term health facilities, and would increase the number of participating counties in the pilot project to 5. It would also prescribe certain criteria in order to qualify as a geriatric technician. This bill would require the department to maintain a list of approved training programs, and would specify the content of the training program. This bill would ~~authorize a person meeting these requirements to represent himself or herself as a geriatric technician, and would describe the duties that may be performed by a geriatric technician.~~

~~This bill would authorize the department to require the payment of fees, not to exceed the actual costs, for the certification and renewal of certification of geriatric technicians. This bill would establish the Geriatric Technician Certification Fund and would continuously appropriate the fund to the department for purposes of implementing the certification requirements.~~

~~This bill would provide that any person who violates these provisions is guilty of a misdemeanor, thereby imposing a state-mandated local program.~~

~~The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.~~

~~This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.~~

The bill would require the office to issue a report, by December 1, 1996, on the existing health manpower pilot project that evaluates the Sonoma County's experience with the project and includes certain prescribed information, and an additional followup report on the pilot project as expanded by this bill that evaluates all counties' experience with the pilot project and includes certain prescribed information.

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



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

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of
2 the following:

3 (a) The Health Manpower Pilot Project No. 152 was
4 approved in 1988 ~~and successfully responded to respond~~
5 to a shortage of adequately trained personnel to meet the
6 needs of residents in long-term health care facilities.

7 (b) ~~Nursing resources in the long-term~~ *Long-term*
8 ~~health care setting are chronically in short supply~~
9 ~~resulting in an inability to recruit and retain facilities~~
10 *continue to experience difficulties recruiting and*
11 *retaining* adequate nursing staff to meet current needs.

12 (c) The population most in need of long-term care is
13 growing rapidly. It is estimated by the year 2000,
14 one-third of the entire population in the United States
15 will be composed of persons over 65 years of age.
16 Three-fourths of all residents of long-term health care
17 facilities will be generated by this age group.

18 (d) A 30 percent decrease in the labor pool of health
19 workers has been projected for the same time period.
20 This decline in resources will exacerbate the problem of
21 acquiring adequate nursing resources.

22 (e) The establishment of the geriatric technician as a
23 new category of health worker ~~will add an appropriately~~
24 ~~trained health worker to the resident care team in~~
25 ~~long-term health care. It has~~ *may have* the potential to
26 increase the retention of experienced workers in
27 long-term health care by creating health career
28 opportunities, upward mobility for certified nurse
29 assistants, and better utilization of licensed nursing
30 personnel.

31 (f) ~~The certification and employment use~~ *use* of geriatric
32 technicians is not intended to displace licensed nurses,
33 but rather to augment the level of available trained staff
34 to optimize the quality of long-term health care.

35 SEC. 2. Article 8.7 (commencing with Section 1336.5)
36 is added to Chapter 2 of Division 2 of the Health and
37 Safety Code, to read:

38



Article 8.7. Geriatric Technicians *Pilot Projects*

1336.5. For purposes of this article the following definitions shall apply:

(a) "Geriatric technician" means any person who is a certified nurse assistant, has at least 12 months of continuous, full-time experience as a certified nurse assistant in a long-term health care setting, and is ~~certified as having completed the requirements of participating in a pilot project authorized under this article.~~

(b) "Certified nurse assistant" means any person who holds himself or herself out as a certified nurse assistant, and who, for compensation, performs basic patient care services directed at the safety, comfort, personal hygiene, and protection of patients, and is certified as having met the requirements set forth in Article 9 (commencing with Section 1337).

(c) "Approved training program" means a program for the training of geriatric technicians that meets the criteria established and approved under this article.

~~(d) "Department" means the State Department of Health Services.~~

(d) "Office" means the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development.

(e) "Supervision" means to instruct a geriatric technician in his or her duties and to oversee or direct his or her work, but does not necessarily require the immediate presence of the supervisor.

(f) "Long-term health care facility" means a licensed health care facility as defined in subdivision (c), (d), (e), (g), (h), or (k) of Section 1250.

~~1336.6. (a) The department shall certify geriatric technicians.~~

1336.6 (a) The office shall extend the geriatric technician pilot project, known as the Health Manpower Project No. 152 through December 31, 1999. The number of counties authorized to participate in the pilot project shall be expanded to a maximum of five.

(b) To ~~be certified~~ *qualify* as a geriatric technician, an individual shall meet all of the following criteria:



1 (1) Be a certified nurse assistant in good standing who
2 has at least twelve months experience with successful
3 performance in that capacity.

4 (2) Have successfully completed a training program
5 approved by the ~~department~~ *office*, that includes an
6 examination to test the applicant's knowledge and skills
7 related to the performance of the responsibilities of a
8 geriatric technician.

9 ~~(c) Every person certified as a geriatric technician
10 under this article may place the letters CNA/GT after his
11 or her name when working in a licensed long term health
12 care facility. An individual working in other health care
13 settings or working independently may not advertise or
14 represent himself or herself as a geriatric technician.~~

15 ~~(d) Any person who violates this article is guilty of a
16 misdemeanor and, upon a conviction thereof, shall be
17 punished by imprisonment in the county jail for not more
18 than 180 days, or by a fine of not less than twenty dollars
19 (\$20) nor more than one thousand dollars (\$1000), or by
20 both the fine and imprisonment.~~

21 ~~(e) The department may require the payment of fees,
22 not to exceed actual costs, for the certification and
23 renewal of the certification of geriatric technicians. All
24 fees collected pursuant to this subdivision shall be
25 deposited in the Geriatric Technician Certification Fund,
26 which is hereby established, and notwithstanding Section
27 13340 of the Government Code, is continuously
28 appropriated to the department for purposes of
29 implementing this article.~~

30 1336.7. (a) The ~~department~~ *office* shall prepare and
31 maintain a list of approved training programs for geriatric
32 technician certification. Clinical portions of the training
33 programs may be obtained as on-the-job training,
34 supervised by a qualified instructor as determined by the
35 ~~department~~ *office*.

36 (b) The approved training program shall consist of at
37 least the following:

38 (1) There shall be a specific emphasis on the
39 psychosocial and physiological aspects of aging, emotional



1 and functional disorders, the administration of select
2 medications and treatments, and death and dying.

3 (2) The training shall include a 450 hour didactic
4 instructional phase and a 400 hour clinical phase. The total
5 number of hours required to complete the didactic and
6 clinical phase shall be 850 hours.

7 (3) The training program shall include instruction in
8 at least the following areas: anatomy and physiology,
9 psychosocial issues, pharmacology, infection control,
10 nutrition, the aging process, skin management, medical
11 terminology, medical-clerical issues, and the role of the
12 interdisciplinary team.

13 (c) The ~~department~~ *office* shall develop criteria for
14 approving training programs that include program
15 content for orientation, training, and the examination to
16 test for the knowledge and skills related to performing
17 the duties of a geriatric technician.

18 ~~1336.8. (a) Certificates issued under this article shall
19 be renewed every two years, concurrent with the nursing
20 assistant recertification, and shall be conditioned upon
21 the certificate holder meeting all criteria for the renewal
22 of his or her nursing assistant certification in accordance
23 with Article 9 (commencing with Section 1337):~~

24 ~~1336.9.~~

25 ~~1336.8. In a long-term health care facility, under the
26 supervision of a registered nurse, the geriatric technician
27 may administer selected medications, and may perform
28 or assist with selected treatments as determined by the
29 department.~~

30 ~~SEC. 3. No reimbursement is required by this act
31 pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California
32 Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred
33 by a local agency or school district will be incurred
34 because this act creates a new crime or infraction,
35 eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty
36 for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section
37 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition
38 of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article
39 XIII B of the California Constitution.~~



1 ~~Notwithstanding Section 17580 of the Government~~
2 ~~Code, unless otherwise specified, the provisions of this act~~
3 ~~shall become operative on the same date that the act~~
4 ~~takes effect pursuant to the California Constitution.~~
5 *consistent with the training received in an approved*
6 *training program.*

7 *1336.9. (a) The office shall issue a report on the*
8 *existing Health Manpower Pilot Project No. 152 that*
9 *evaluates Sonoma County's experience with the project,*
10 *by December 1, 1996. The report shall contain all of the*
11 *following information:*

12 *(1) A description of the persons trained.*

13 *(2) An analysis of the training completed.*

14 *(3) A summary of the specific services provided by*
15 *geriatric technicians.*

16 *(4) An assessment of pertinent quality indicators.*

17 *(b) The office shall issue a followup report on the*
18 *expanded Health Manpower Pilot Project No. 152 that*
19 *evaluates all counties' experience with the project, by*
20 *December 1, 1988. In addition to the items described in*
21 *subdivision (a), the report shall contain all of the*
22 *following information:*

23 *(1) A description of the role of the local educational*
24 *agencies in the project.*

25 *(2) An examination of the educational issues related to*
26 *the project.*

27 *(3) A comparison of the geriatric technician program*
28 *to other nurse career ladder programs.*

29 *(4) An analysis of the long-term care labor market.*

30 *(5) An assessment of the administrative requirements*
31 *related to geriatric technician licensure or certification.*

32 *(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law,*
33 *issuance of the reports described in subdivisions (a) and*
34 *(b) shall not require that the office terminate the Health*
35 *Manpower Pilot Project No. 152.*

