

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 19, 1995  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 24, 1995  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 30, 1995

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1995–96 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1409**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Valerie Brown**

February 24, 1995

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~~An act to add Article 8.7 (commencing with Section 1336.5) to Chapter 2 of Division 2 of the Health and Safety Code.~~ *An act to add Sections 429.82, 429.83, and 429.84 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to geriatric technicians.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

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

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 ~~extend, through December 31, 1999,~~ *authorize the extension for 4 additional years of* a particular health manpower pilot project involving the use of geriatric technicians in long-term health *care* facilities, and would

*authorize an increase in the number of participating counties sponsors 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 describe the duties that may be performed by a geriatric technician.*

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 reports that evaluate additional geriatric technician pilot projects approved by the office and include certain prescribed information.~~

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~~
- 2 *SECTION 1. Section 429.82 is added to the Health and*
- 3 *Safety Code, to read:*
- 4 *429.82. The Legislature finds and declares all of the*
- 5 *following:*
- 6 (a) The Health Manpower Pilot Project No. 152 was
- 7 approved in 1988 to respond to a shortage of adequately
- 8 trained personnel to meet the needs of residents in
- 9 long-term health care facilities.
- 10 (b) Long-term health care facilities continue to
- 11 experience difficulties recruiting and retaining adequate
- 12 nursing staff to meet current needs.
- 13 (c) The population most in need of long-term care is
- 14 growing rapidly. It is estimated by the year 2000,
- 15 one-third of the entire population in the United States
- 16 will be composed of persons over 65 years of age.
- 17 Three-fourths of all residents of long-term health care
- 18 facilities will be generated by this age group.



1 (d) A 30 percent decrease in the labor pool of health  
2 workers has been projected for the same time period.  
3 This decline in resources will exacerbate the problem of  
4 acquiring adequate nursing resources.

5 (e) The establishment of the geriatric technician as a  
6 new category of health worker may have the potential to  
7 increase the retention of experienced workers in  
8 long-term health care by creating health career  
9 opportunities, upward mobility for certified nurse  
10 assistants, and better utilization of licensed nursing  
11 personnel.

12 (f) The use of geriatric technicians is not intended to  
13 displace licensed nurses, but rather to augment the level  
14 of available trained staff to optimize the quality of  
15 long-term health care.

16 ~~SEC. 2. Article 8.7 (commencing with Section 1336.5)~~

17 *SEC. 2. Section 429.83 is added to the Health and  
18 Safety Code, to read:*

19 *429.83. The office may extend the geriatric technician  
20 pilot project, known as the Health Manpower Pilot  
21 Project No. 152, for a minimum of four additional years,  
22 pursuant to reapplication by the sponsoring agency. The  
23 project shall continue to meet the applicable  
24 requirements established by the office. The number of  
25 sponsors authorized to participate in the pilot project  
26 may be expanded to a maximum of five.*

27 *SEC. 3. Section 429.84 is added to the Health and  
28 Safety Code, to read:*

29 *429.84. (a) The office shall issue a report on the  
30 existing Health Manpower Pilot Project No. 152 that  
31 evaluates Sonoma County's experience with the project,  
32 by December 1, 1996. The report shall contain all of the  
33 following information:*

34 *(1) A description of the persons trained, including, but  
35 not limited to, the following:*

36 *(A) The total number of persons who entered  
37 training.*

38 *(B) The total number of persons who completed  
39 training.*



- 1 (C) *The selection method, including descriptions of*  
2 *any nonquantitative criteria used by employers to refer*  
3 *persons to training.*
- 4 (D) *The education and experience of the trainees*  
5 *prior to training.*
- 6 (E) *Demographic characteristics of the trainees, as*  
7 *available.*
- 8 (2) *An analysis of the training completed, including,*  
9 *but not limited to, the following:*
- 10 (A) *Curriculum and core competencies.*
- 11 (B) *Qualifications of instructors.*
- 12 (C) *Changes in the curriculum during the pilot*  
13 *project or recommended for the future.*
- 14 (D) *Nature of clinical and didactic training, including*  
15 *ratio of students to instructors.*
- 16 (3) *A summary of the specific services and the*  
17 *standards of care for tasks performed by geriatric*  
18 *technicians.*
- 19 (4) *The new health skills taught or the extent to which*  
20 *existing skills have been reallocated.*
- 21 (5) *Implication of the project for existing licensure*  
22 *laws with suggestions for changes in the law where*  
23 *appropriate.*
- 24 (6) *Implications of the project for health services*  
25 *curricula and for health care delivery systems.*
- 26 (7) *Teaching methods used in the project.*
- 27 (8) *The quality of care including pertinent medication*  
28 *errors, incident reports, and patient acceptance in the*  
29 *project.*
- 30 (9) *The extent to which persons with new skills could*  
31 *find employment in the health care system, assuming*  
32 *laws were changed to incorporate their skills.*
- 33 (10) *The cost of care provided in the project, the likely*  
34 *cost of this care if performed by the trainees subsequent*  
35 *to the project, and the cost for provision of this care by*  
36 *current providers.*
- 37 (b) *The office shall issue followup reports on*  
38 *additional geriatric technician pilot projects approved by*  
39 *the office following 24 months of implementation of the*



1 *employment utilization phase of each project. The*  
2 *reports shall contain all of the following information:*

3 *(1) A description of the persons trained, including, but*  
4 *not limited to, the following:*

5 *(A) The total number of persons who entered*  
6 *training.*

7 *(B) The total number of persons who completed*  
8 *training.*

9 *(C) The selection method, including descriptions of*  
10 *any nonquantitative criteria used by employers to refer*  
11 *persons to training.*

12 *(D) The education and experience of the trainees*  
13 *prior to training.*

14 *(E) Demographic characteristics of the trainees, as*  
15 *available.*

16 *(2) An analysis of the training completed, including,*  
17 *but not limited to, the following:*

18 *(A) Curriculum and core competencies.*

19 *(B) Qualifications of the instructor.*

20 *(C) Changes in the curriculum during the pilot*  
21 *project or recommended for the future.*

22 *(D) The nature of clinical and didactic training,*  
23 *including the ratio of students to instructors.*

24 *(3) A summary of the specific services provided by*  
25 *geriatric technicians.*

26 *(4) The new health skills taught or the extent to which*  
27 *existing skills have been reallocated.*

28 *(5) Implications of the project for existing licensure*  
29 *laws with suggestions for changes in the law where*  
30 *appropriate.*

31 *(6) Implications of the project for health services*  
32 *curricula and for health care delivery systems.*

33 *(7) Teaching methods used in the project.*

34 *(8) The quality of care, including pertinent*  
35 *medication errors, incident reports, and patient*  
36 *acceptance in the project.*

37 *(9) The extent to which persons with new skills could*  
38 *find employment in the health care system, assuming*  
39 *laws were changed to incorporate their skills.*



1 (10) The cost of care provided in the project, the likely  
2 cost of this care if performed by the trainees subsequent  
3 to the project, and the cost for provision of this care by  
4 current providers thereof.

5 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law,  
6 issuance of the reports described in subdivisions (a) and  
7 (b) shall not require that the office terminate the Health  
8 Manpower Pilot Project No. 152 or subsequent geriatric  
9 technician pilot projects authorized by the office.

10 is added to Chapter 2 of Division 2 of the Health and  
11 Safety Code, to read:

12  
13 Article 8.7. Geriatric Technicians Pilot Projects

14  
15 1336.5. For purposes of this article the following  
16 definitions shall apply:

17 (a) "Geriatric technician" means any person who is a  
18 certified nurse assistant, has at least 12 months of  
19 continuous, full-time experience as a certified nurse  
20 assistant in a long-term health care setting, and is  
21 participating in a pilot project authorized under this  
22 article.

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

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

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

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



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

4 ~~1336.6 (a) The office shall extend the geriatric~~  
5 ~~technician pilot project, known as the Health Manpower~~  
6 ~~Project No. 152 through December 31, 1999. The number~~  
7 ~~of counties authorized to participate in the pilot project~~  
8 ~~shall be expanded to a maximum of five.~~

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

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

14 ~~(2) Have successfully completed a training program~~  
15 ~~approved by the office, that includes an examination to~~  
16 ~~test the applicant’s knowledge and skills related to the~~  
17 ~~performance of the responsibilities of a geriatric~~  
18 ~~technician.~~

19 ~~1336.7. (a) The office shall prepare and maintain a~~  
20 ~~list of approved training programs for geriatric~~  
21 ~~technician certification. Clinical portions of the training~~  
22 ~~programs may be obtained as on-the-job training,~~  
23 ~~supervised by a qualified instructor as determined by the~~  
24 ~~office.~~

25 ~~(b) The approved training program shall consist of at~~  
26 ~~least the following:~~

27 ~~(1) There shall be a specific emphasis on the~~  
28 ~~psychosocial and physiological aspects of aging, emotional~~  
29 ~~and functional disorders, the administration of select~~  
30 ~~medications and treatments, and death and dying.~~

31 ~~(2) The training shall include a 450 hour didactic~~  
32 ~~instructional phase and a 400 hour clinical phase. The total~~  
33 ~~number of hours required to complete the didactic and~~  
34 ~~clinical phase shall be 850 hours.~~

35 ~~(3) The training program shall include instruction in~~  
36 ~~at least the following areas: anatomy and physiology,~~  
37 ~~psychosocial issues, pharmacology, infection control,~~  
38 ~~nutrition, the aging process, skin management, medical~~  
39 ~~terminology, medical-clerical issues, and the role of the~~  
40 ~~interdisciplinary team.~~



1 ~~(c) The office shall develop criteria for approving~~  
2 ~~training programs that include program content for~~  
3 ~~orientation, training, and the examination to test for the~~  
4 ~~knowledge and skills related to performing the duties of~~  
5 ~~a geriatric technician.~~

6 ~~1336.8. In a long term health care facility, under the~~  
7 ~~supervision of a registered nurse, the geriatric technician~~  
8 ~~may administer selected medications, and may perform~~  
9 ~~or assist with selected treatments consistent with the~~  
10 ~~training received in an approved training program.~~

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

16 ~~(1) A description of the persons trained.~~

17 ~~(2) An analysis of the training completed.~~

18 ~~(3) A summary of the specific services provided by~~  
19 ~~geriatric technicians.~~

20 ~~(4) An assessment of pertinent quality indicators.~~

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

27 ~~(1) A description of the role of the local educational~~  
28 ~~agencies in the project.~~

29 ~~(2) An examination of the educational issues related to~~  
30 ~~the project.~~

31 ~~(3) A comparison of the geriatric technician program~~  
32 ~~to other nurse career ladder programs.~~

33 ~~(4) An analysis of the long term care labor market.~~

34 ~~(5) An assessment of the administrative requirements~~  
35 ~~related to geriatric technician licensure or certification.~~

36 ~~(e) Notwithstanding any other provision of law,~~  
37 ~~issuance of the reports described in subdivisions (a) and~~



- 1 ~~(b) shall not require that the office terminate the Health~~
- 2 ~~Manpower Pilot Project No. 152.~~

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