

Assembly Bill No. 1409

Passed the Assembly July 24, 1995

Chief Clerk of the Assembly

Passed the Senate July 21, 1995

Secretary of the Senate

This bill was received by the Governor this ____ day
of _____, 1995, at ____ o'clock __M.

Private Secretary of the Governor



CHAPTER _____

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, 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 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 sponsors in the pilot project to 5.

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

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

SECTION 1. Section 429.82 is added to the Health and Safety Code, to read:

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

(a) The Health Manpower Pilot Project No. 152 was approved in 1988 to respond to a shortage of adequately



trained personnel to meet the needs of residents in long-term health care facilities.

(b) Long-term health care facilities continue to report difficulties recruiting and retaining adequate nursing staff to meet current needs.

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

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

(e) The establishment of the geriatric technician as a new category of health worker may have the potential to increase the retention of experienced workers in long-term health care by creating health career opportunities and upward mobility for certified nurse assistants.

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

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

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

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

429.84. (a) The office shall issue a report on the existing Health Manpower Pilot Project No. 152 that evaluates Sonoma County's experience with the project,



by December 1, 1996. The report shall contain all of the following information:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(A) Curriculum and core competencies.

(B) Qualifications of instructors.

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

(D) Nature of clinical and didactic training, including ratio of students to instructors.

(3) A summary of the specific services and the standards of care for tasks performed by geriatric technicians.

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

(5) Implication of the project for existing licensure laws with suggestions for changes in the law where appropriate.

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

(7) Teaching methods used in the project.

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

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



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

(b) The office shall issue followup reports on additional geriatric technician pilot projects approved by the office following 24 months of implementation of the employment utilization phase of each project. The reports shall contain all of the following information:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(A) Curriculum and core competencies.

(B) Qualifications of the instructor.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(7) Teaching methods used in the project.



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

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

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

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



Approved _____, 1995

Governor

