Senate Bill No. 139

Passed the Senate September 12, 2007

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Secretary of the Senate

Passed the Assembly September 10, 2007

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Chief Clerk of the Assembly

This bill was received by the Governor this _____ day of _____, 2007, at _____ o'clock ____M.

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Private Secretary of the Governor

CHAPTER _____

An act to amend Sections 70101, 70106, 70120, 70124, 70125, 78261, 87482, 89267, and 92645 of, and to add Sections 66055.8, 66055.9, 70128.5, 78261.3, and 89267.3 to, the Education Code, and to add Article 5 (commencing with Section 128050) to Chapter 2 of Part 3 of Division 107 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to nursing education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 139, Scott. Nursing education.

(1) The existing Donahoe Higher Education Act sets forth, among other things, the missions and functions of the various segments of postsecondary education in the state. These segments include the California State University, the California Community Colleges, and the various private and independent colleges and universities.

This bill would add to the Donahoe Higher Education Act a provision prohibiting a campus of the California State University or the California Community Colleges that operates a registered nursing program from requiring a student who has been admitted to that registered nursing program and who has already earned a baccalaureate or higher degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education to complete general education requirements. The bill would instead authorize these segments to require those students to complete only the coursework that is necessary to prepare him or her for licensing as a registered nurse.

The bill would authorize any college, university, or other entity that operates an accredited registered nursing program to require any prospective student to provide criminal record clearance, as defined, prior to enrollment.

(2) Existing law establishes the Student Aid Commission as the primary state agency for the administration of state-authorized student financial aid programs available to students attending all segments of postsecondary education.

Existing law establishes the State Nursing Assumption Program of Loans for Education (SNAPLE), administered by the commission, under which any person enrolled in an institution of

postsecondary education and participating in that loan assumption program is eligible to receive a conditional warrant for loan assumption, to be redeemed upon becoming employed as a full-time nursing faculty member at a California college or university.

Existing law establishes a loan assumption program for employees of specified state facilities within the SNAPLE program. This program provides loan assumption benefits to persons who fulfill agreements to work full time for 4 consecutive years as clinical registered nurses in state-operated 24-hour facilities, as specified, that employ registered nurses and that, at the time the person commences employment at the facility, have a vacancy rate of greater than 10% in clinical registered nursing positions, as reported, pursuant to the bill, to the commission by the Department of Personnel Administration. The program provides for a progressive assumption of the amount of a qualifying loan over 4 consecutive years of qualifying clinical registered nursing service, up to a total loan assumption of $20,000.

Under existing law, this program becomes inoperative on July 1, 2012, and is repealed on January 1, 2013.

This bill would make a person who has earned a baccalaureate or graduate level degree, and who meets the other requirements of the program, eligible to enter into an agreement for loan assumption under the program. The bill would require that, if a provision is added to the program and the commission deems it necessary to adopt a rule or regulation to implement that provision, the commission develop and adopt that rule or regulation no later than 6 months after the operative date of the statute that adds the provision.

The bill would make a person who is currently employed as a registered nurse in a state-operated 24-hour facility ineligible to enter into an agreement for loan assumption under this program. The bill would also specify that, in any fiscal year, the commission shall award no more than the number of warrants that are authorized by the Governor and the Legislature in the annual Budget Act for that year for the assumption of loans pursuant to the program.

(3) Existing law authorizes the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges and the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to award grants to community

college districts with associate degree nursing programs to expand enrollment, reduce program attrition, or both. Under this provision, funds may be used for, among other purposes, the providing of diagnostic assessments.

This bill would provide that the board of governors solely, rather than the board of governors and the chancellor, would award these grants. The bill would authorize a community college district, irrespective of whether it participates in the program established by this provision, to use multicriteria screening measures, including any diagnostic assessment tool that is commonly used in registered nursing programs and is approved by the chancellor.

The bill would authorize a community college registered nursing program to use additional multicriteria screening measures if it determines that the number of applicants to that program exceeds its capacity. The bill would prohibit a community college district from excluding an applicant to a registered nursing program on the sole basis that the applicant is not a resident of that district or has not completed prerequisite courses in that district.

(4) Existing law establishes the California State University, under the administration of the Trustees of the California State University, as one of the segments of public postsecondary education in this state. Existing law provides for the operation of 25 component institutions of the university.

Existing law establishes the University of California, under the administration of the Regents of the University of California, as one of the segments of public postsecondary education in this state. Existing law authorizes the provision of instruction at the 10 component institutions of the university. Existing law expresses legislative intent with respect to the expansion of baccalaureate degree nursing programs of those respective segments.

This bill would express legislative intent that the funding for the baccalaureate degree enrollment expansions referenced in these provisions be funded within the general enrollment growth funding that is traditionally provided to the respective segments during the annual budget process.

The bill would prohibit the California State University from disqualifying or prohibiting a student who possesses a baccalaureate or higher degree from enrolling in, and completing, a baccalaureate degree nursing program on the sole basis of that student's possession of the degree.

(5) Existing law establishes the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, which is charged with the administration of health policy and planning. Existing law establishes the California Health Data and Planning Fund, and authorizes moneys from that fund to be appropriated for expenditure for health-related programs of the office.

This bill would provide for the establishment of a health care workforce clearinghouse under the administration of the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development. The bill would provide that the clearinghouse would serve as the central source of health care workforce and educational data in the state. The bill would provide that the activities of the clearinghouse would be funded by appropriations made from the California Health Data and Planning Fund.

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

SECTION 1. Section 66055.8 is added to the Education Code, to read:

66055.8. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a campus of the California State University or the California Community Colleges that operates a registered nursing program shall not require a student who has been admitted to that registered nursing program and who has already earned a baccalaureate or higher degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education to complete general education requirements, but rather shall require that student to complete only the coursework that is necessary to prepare him or her for licensing as a registered nurse.

SEC. 2. Section 66055.9 is added to the Education Code, to read:

66055.9. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any college, university, or other entity that operates an accredited registered nursing program may require any prospective student to provide criminal record clearance within the meaning of Section 1265.5 of the Health and Safety Code prior to enrollment.

SEC. 3. Section 70101 of the Education Code is amended to read:

70101. (a) Program participants shall meet all of the following eligibility criteria prior to selection into the program, and shall

continue to meet these criteria, as appropriate, during the payment periods:

(1) The participant shall be a United States citizen or eligible noncitizen.

(2) The participant shall be a California resident attending, or having earned a baccalaureate or graduate level degree from, an eligible school or college.

(3) The participant shall be making satisfactory academic progress.

(4) The participant shall have complied with United States Selective Service requirements.

(5) The participant shall not owe a refund on any state or federal educational grant or have delinquent or defaulted student loans.

(b) Any person who has enrolled in, or graduated from, an institution of postsecondary education, and who is participating in the loan assumption program set forth in this article, may be eligible to receive a conditional warrant for loan assumption, to be redeemed pursuant to this chapter upon becoming employed as a full-time nursing faculty member at a California college or university or the equivalent of full-time service as a nursing faculty member employed part time at one or more California colleges or universities.

(c) (1) The commission shall award loan assumption agreements to undergraduate students with demonstrated academic ability and financial need, as determined by the commission pursuant to Article 1.5 (commencing with Section 69503) of Chapter 2, and to graduate students with demonstrated academic ability.

(2) The applicant shall have completed a baccalaureate level or graduate level degree program or be enrolled in an academic program leading to a baccalaureate level or a graduate level degree.

(3) The applicant shall be currently enrolled in, admitted to, or have successfully completed, a program in which he or she will be enrolled on at least a half-time basis each academic term as defined by an eligible institution. The applicant shall agree to maintain satisfactory academic progress.

(4) The applicant shall have been judged by his or her postsecondary institution to have outstanding ability on the basis of criteria that may include, but need not be limited to, any of the following:

(A) Grade point average.

(B) Test scores.
(C) Faculty evaluations.
(D) Interviews.
(E) Other recommendations.

(5) The applicant shall have received, or be approved to receive, a loan under one or more of the following designated loan programs:

(A) The Federal Family Education Loan Program (20 U.S.C. Sec. 1071 et seq.).
(B) The Federal Direct Loan Program.
(C) Any loan program approved by the commission.

(6) The applicant shall have agreed to teach nursing on a full-time basis at one or more accredited California colleges or universities for at least three years, or on a part-time basis for the equivalent of three full-time academic years, commencing not more than 12 months after obtaining an academic degree, unless the applicant, within 12 months after obtaining the academic degree, enrolls in an academic degree program leading to a more advanced degree in nursing or a field related to nursing.

(7) An applicant who teaches on less than a full-time basis may participate in the program, but is not eligible for loan repayment until that person teaches for the equivalent of a full-time academic year.

(d) A person participating in the program pursuant to this section shall not receive more than one loan assumption agreement, and shall not be eligible to receive a grant pursuant to Article 3.51 (commencing with Section 78260) of Chapter 2 of Part 48.

SEC. 4. Section 70106 of the Education Code is amended to read:

70106. (a) The commission shall administer this article, and shall adopt rules and regulations for that purpose. The rules and regulations shall include, but need not be limited to, provisions regarding the period of time for which a warrant shall remain valid and the development of projections for funding purposes. In developing these rules and regulations, the commission shall solicit the advice of representatives from postsecondary education institutions, the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, and the nursing community.

(b) If a provision is added to this article and the commission deems it necessary to adopt a rule or regulation to implement that

section, the commission shall develop and adopt that rule or regulation no later than six months after the operative date of the statute that adds the provision.

SEC. 5. Section 70120 of the Education Code is amended to read:

70120. (a) (1) Any person enrolled in an eligible institution, or any person who agrees to work full time as a registered nurse in a state-operated 24-hour facility that employs registered nurses, may be eligible to enter into an agreement for loan assumption, to be redeemed pursuant to Section 70122 upon becoming employed as a clinical registered nurse in a state-operated 24-hour facility that employs registered nurses and that has a clinical registered nurse vacancy rate of greater than 10 percent as reported annually to the commission by the Department of Personnel Administration pursuant to Section 70121. In order to be eligible to enter into an agreement for loan assumption, an applicant shall satisfy all of the conditions specified in subdivision (b).

(2) As used in this article, "eligible institution" means a postsecondary institution that is determined by the Student Aid Commission to meet both of the following requirements:

(A) The institution is eligible to participate in state and federal financial aid programs.

(B) The institution maintains an accredited program of professional preparation for licensing as a registered nurse in California.

(3) As used in this article, "state-operated 24-hour facility" includes, but is not necessarily limited to, a state-operated prison, psychiatric hospital, or veterans' home.

(b) (1) The applicant has been admitted to, or is enrolled in, or has successfully completed an accredited program of professional preparation for licensing as a registered nurse in California. However, a person who is currently employed as a registered nurse in a state-operated 24-hour facility may be eligible to enter into an agreement for loan assumption under Article 1 (commencing with Section 70100), but is not eligible to enter into an agreement for loan assumption under this article.

(2) The applicant is currently enrolled, or has been admitted to a program in which he or she will be enrolled, on a full-time basis, as determined by the participating institution. The applicant shall agree to maintain satisfactory academic progress and a minimum

of full-time enrollment, as defined by the participating eligible institution.

(3) The applicant has been judged by his or her postsecondary institution to have outstanding ability on the basis of criteria that may include, but need not be limited to, any of the following:

(A) Grade point average.

(B) Test scores.

(C) Faculty evaluations.

(D) Interviews.

(E) Other recommendations.

(4) The applicant has received, or is approved to receive, a loan under one or more of the following designated loan programs:

(A) The Federal Family Education Loan Program (20 U.S.C. Sec. 1071 et seq.).

(B) Any loan program approved by the Student Aid Commission.

(5) The applicant has agreed to work full time for at least four consecutive years as a clinical registered nurse in a state-operated 24-hour facility that employs registered nurses and that has a clinical registered nurse vacancy rate of greater than 10 percent as reported annually to the commission by the Department of Personnel Administration.

(c) No applicant who has completed fewer than 60 semester units, or the equivalent, shall be eligible under this section to participate in the loan assumption program set forth in this article.

(d) An agreement shall remain valid even if the state-operated facility at which the applicant is employed ceases to be listed pursuant to Section 70121 after the applicant is employed there.

(e) A person participating in the program pursuant to this section shall not enter into more than one agreement.

SEC. 6. Section 70124 of the Education Code is amended to read:

70124. (a) Except as provided in subdivision (b), if a program participant fails to complete a minimum of four consecutive years of full-time employment as required by this article, under the terms of the agreement pursuant to paragraph (5) of subdivision (b) of Section 70120, the participant shall assume full liability for all student loan obligations remaining after the commission's assumption of loan liability for the last year of qualifying clinical registered nursing service pursuant to Section 70123.

(b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), if a program participant becomes unable to complete one of the four consecutive years of qualifying clinical registered nursing service due to serious illness, pregnancy, or other natural causes, the term of the loan assumption agreement shall be extended for a period not to exceed one year. The commission shall make no further payments under the loan assumption agreement until the applicable work requirements as specified in Section 70122 have been satisfied.

(c) If a natural disaster prevents a program participant from completing one of the required years of work due to the interruption of employment at the employing state facility, the term of the loan assumption agreement shall be extended for the period of time equal to the period from the interruption of employment at the employing state facility to the resumption of employment. The commission shall make no further payments under the loan assumption agreement until the applicable employment requirements specified in Section 70123 have been satisfied.

SEC. 7. Section 70125 of the Education Code is amended to read:

70125. (a) The commission shall administer this article, and shall adopt rules and regulations for that purpose. The rules and regulations shall include, but need not be limited to, provisions regarding the period of time during which an agreement shall remain valid, the reallocation of resources in light of agreements that are not utilized by program participants, the failure, for any reason, of a program participant to complete a minimum of four consecutive years of qualifying clinical registered nursing service, and the development of projections for funding purposes.

(b) If a provision is added to this article and the commission deems it necessary to adopt a rule or regulation to implement that provision, the commission shall develop and adopt that rule or regulation no later than six months after the operative date of the statute that adds the provision.

SEC. 8. Section 70128.5 is added to the Education Code, to read:

70128.5. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in any fiscal year, the commission shall award no more than the number of warrants that are authorized by the Governor and the Legislature in the annual Budget Act for that year for the assumption of loans pursuant to this article.

SEC. 9. Section 78261 of the Education Code is amended to read:

78261. (a) The Legislature finds and declares both of the following:

(1) The Legislature intends to facilitate both the expansion of associate degree nursing programs and the improvement in completion rates in those programs.

(2) The Legislature also intends that community colleges employ nationally recognized diagnostic assessment tools that are aligned with national nursing licensure requirements. Both students and the state benefit when diagnostic assessments are supplemented with educational opportunities to assist students in meeting skill levels.

(b) It is the intent of the Legislature to create a Nursing Enrollment Growth and Retention program in the Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges. The purpose of this program shall be to provide grants to community college associate degree of nursing programs that meet either of the following conditions:

(1) The nursing program has low or moderate program attrition levels.

(2) The nursing program provides a comprehensive program of diagnostic assessment, prenursing preparation, and program-based support to students.

(c) (1) It is the intent of the Legislature that this program shall be funded, beginning in the 2006–07 fiscal year, by a redirection of the ten million dollars ($10,000,000) provided annually pursuant to the Budget Act of 2005, along with an additional investment of two million eight hundred eighty-six thousand dollars ($2,886,000) annually, for a total program budget of twelve million eight hundred eighty-six thousand dollars ($12,886,000) annually. Unencumbered funds that were appropriated in the Budget Act of 2005 may be used for capacity building and equipment in the 2006–07 fiscal year.

(2) Up to 3 percent of the funds appropriated for this program may be used for statewide administration, program development, program evaluation, and program accountability. As used in this paragraph, "program development" includes, but is not necessarily limited to, activities related to partnerships or collaborations between community colleges and institutions of higher education

offering baccalaureate degrees in order to increase the number of students completing bachelor of the science of nursing (BSN), master of the science of nursing (MSN), and master's entry programs in nursing (MEPN) courses of study.

(d) The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges may award grants to community college districts with associate degree nursing programs to expand enrollment, reduce program attrition, or both. Funds shall be used only for the following purposes: expanding enrollment, providing diagnostic assessments, and offering preentry coursework to prospective nursing students and diagnostic assessments and supportive services to enrolled nursing students. For purposes of this section, supportive services include, but are not necessarily limited to, tutoring, case management, mentoring, and counseling services. Funds may also be used to develop alternative delivery models such as part-time, evening, weekend, and summer program offerings. In order to qualify for these funds, a community college associate degree nursing program shall do either of the following:

(1) Have a program attrition rate, as determined by the Board of Registered Nursing's Annual School Report or the Information Program Data System of the Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges, of 15 percent or less for the year prior to application for funding.

(2) Commit to implement a comprehensive program of diagnostic assessment, prenursing enrollment preparation, and program-based support to enrolled students, as defined in this article.

(e) Notwithstanding Section 78213 or any other provision of law, prior to awarding any funds to be used for reducing program attrition, the chancellor's office shall do all of the following:

(1) Identify, in collaboration with community college associate degree nursing programs, nationally recognized diagnostic assessment tools that determine the likelihood of academic success in community college registered nursing education programs.

(2) Establish, in collaboration with community college associate degree nursing programs, the systemwide proficiency level necessary for academic success for each diagnostic assessment tool.

(3) Define the kinds of educational and support services that qualify for funding under this program.

(f) As a condition of receiving grants under paragraph (2) of subdivision (d), a community college district shall, at a minimum, do all of the following:

(1) Utilize diagnostic assessment tools prior to enrollment to determine readiness for community college associate degree nursing programs.

(2) Offer, or identify, educational preentry coursework, including, but not necessarily limited to, tutorials, instructional resources, or noncredit instruction, aligned to the entry level nursing standards and curriculum for students who fail to demonstrate readiness based upon the diagnostic assessment tools.

(3) Provide access to prenursing coursework for all students who do not demonstrate readiness based upon the diagnostic assessment tools.

(4) Require that students demonstrate readiness through the diagnostic assessment or successful completion of the prenursing coursework specified above prior to commencing the registered nursing program.

(5) Ensure that students that participate in educational preentry coursework in order to demonstrate readiness based upon the diagnostic assessment tools are not disadvantaged in the program enrollment process.

(g) As a condition of receiving grant funds pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d), each recipient district shall report to the chancellor's office the following data for the academic year on or before a date determined by the chancellor's office:

(1) The number of students enrolled in the nursing program.

(2) The number of students taking diagnostic assessments.

(3) The number of students failing to meet proficiency levels as determined by diagnostic assessment tools.

(4) The number of students failing to meet proficiency levels that undertake preentry preparation classes.

(5) The number of students who successfully complete preentry preparation coursework.

(6) The average number of months between initial diagnostic assessment, demonstration of readiness, and enrollment in the nursing program for students failing to meet proficiency standards on the initial diagnostic assessment.

(7) The average number of months between diagnostic assessment and program enrollment for students meeting proficiency standards on the initial diagnostic assessment.

(8) The number of students who completed the associate degree nursing program and the number of students who pass the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX).

(h) (1) Data reported to the chancellor under this article shall be disaggregated by age, gender, ethnicity, and language spoken at home.

(2) The chancellor's office shall compile and provide this information to the Legislature and the Governor by March 1 of each year.

(i) It is the intent of the Legislature that, pursuant to funding to be provided in the annual Budget Act, in the 2009–10 academic year, the California Community Colleges should increase the statewide enrollment of full-time equivalent registered nursing students by 450 and, beginning in the 2010–11 academic year and continuing each academic year thereafter, add 900 new full-time equivalent registered nursing students.

SEC. 10. Section 78261.3 is added to the Education Code, to read:

78261.3. Notwithstanding any other provision of law:

(a) Any community college district, irrespective of whether it participates in the program established by this article, may use any diagnostic assessment tool that is commonly used in registered nursing programs and is approved by the chancellor.

(b) If, after using an approved diagnostic assessment tool, a community college registered nursing program determines that the number of applicants to that program exceeds its capacity, the program is authorized to use additional multicriteria screening measures. This subdivision does not prohibit or prevent a community college registered nursing program from using an approved diagnostic assessment tool before or during a multicriteria screening process.

(c) A community college district may not exclude an applicant to a registered nursing program on the sole basis that the applicant is not a resident of that district or has not completed prerequisite courses in that district.

SEC. 11. Section 87482 of the Education Code is amended to read:

87482. (a) (1) Notwithstanding Section 87480, the governing board of a community college district may employ any qualified individual as a temporary faculty member for a complete school year but not less than a complete semester or quarter during a school year. The employment of those persons shall be based upon the need for additional faculty during a particular semester or quarter because of the higher enrollment of students during that semester or quarter as compared to the other semester or quarter in the academic year, or because a faculty member has been granted leave for a semester, quarter, or year, or is experiencing long-term illness, and shall be limited, in number of persons so employed, to that need, as determined by the governing board.

(2) Employment of a person under this subdivision may be pursuant to contract fixing a salary for the entire semester or quarter.

(b) No person, other than a person serving as clinical nursing faculty and exempted from this subdivision pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (c), shall be employed by any one district under this section for more than two semesters or three quarters within any period of three consecutive years.

(c) (1) Notwithstanding subdivision (b), a person serving as full-time clinical nursing faculty or as part-time clinical nursing faculty teaching 60 percent or more of the hours per week considered a full-time assignment for regular employees may be employed by any one district under this section for up to four semesters or six quarters within any period of three consecutive academic years between July 1, 2007, and June 30, 2014, inclusive.

(2) A district that employs faculty pursuant to this subdivision shall provide data to the chancellor's office as to how many faculty members were hired under this subdivision, and what the ratio of full-time to part-time faculty was for each of the three academic years prior to the hiring of faculty under this subdivision and for each academic year for which faculty is hired under this subdivision. This data shall be submitted, in writing, to the chancellor's office on or before June 30, 2012.

(3) The chancellor shall report, in writing, to the Legislature and the Governor on or before September 30, 2012, in accordance with data received pursuant to paragraph (2), how many districts hired faculty under this subdivision, how many faculty members were hired under this subdivision, and what the ratio of full-time

to part-time faculty was for these districts in each of the three academic years prior to the operation of this subdivision and for each academic year for which faculty is hired under this subdivision.

(4) A district may not employ a person pursuant to this subdivision if the hiring of that person results in an increase in the ratio of part-time to full-time nursing faculty in that district.

SEC. 12. Section 89267 of the Education Code is amended to read:

89267. It is the intent of the Legislature:

(a) That, pursuant to funding to be appropriated in the Budget Act of 2007, the trustees should increase, by at least 340, the number of full-time equivalent students in baccalaureate degree nursing programs, beginning in the 2007–08 fiscal year.

(b) That the trustees provide a report to the Governor and the Legislature on or before March 15, 2007, on the proposed expenditure plans to expand nursing programs to enroll an additional 340 full-time equivalent students as a result of the funds appropriated in the Budget Act of 2007.

(c) To support the expansion of future baccalaureate degree nursing enrollment with annual appropriations in the State Budget Act.

(d) That the funding for the baccalaureate degree enrollment expansions referenced in this section be funded within the general enrollment growth funding that is traditionally provided to the California State University during the annual state budget process.

(e) To encourage the university, in providing programs under this article, to establish partnerships or collaborations with community colleges to facilitate the education of students in bachelor of the science of nursing (BSN) or entry-level master's nursing programs.

SEC. 13. Section 89267.3 is added to the Education Code, to read:

89267.3. The California State University may establish priorities for admission to baccalaureate degree nursing programs, but it shall not disqualify or prohibit any student who possesses a baccalaureate or higher degree from enrolling in, and completing, a baccalaureate degree nursing program on the sole basis of that student's possession of the degree.

SEC. 14. Section 92645 of the Education Code is amended to read:

92645. It is the intent of the Legislature that all of the following occur:

(a) That, pursuant to funding to be appropriated in the Budget Act of 2007, the Regents of the University of California should offer at least 175 full-time equivalent students in baccalaureate degree nursing programs, at least 140 state-supported full-time equivalent students in accelerated master's level nursing programs, including entry-level master's programs and entry-level master's clinical programs, at least 41 full-time equivalent associate degree nursing (ADN) transitional to bachelor's of science of nursing (BSN) and full-time equivalent master of science of nursing (MSN) students, and at least 40 full-time equivalent students in traditional master of science in nursing (MSN) degree programs by the 2007–08 academic year.

(b) That the regents provide a report to the Governor and the Legislature on or before March 15, 2007, on the proposed expenditure plans to expand nursing programs to enroll the additional students identified in subdivision (a).

(c) That the expansion of future baccalaureate, accelerated master's degree, ADN transitional to BSN and MSN degrees, and traditional MSN degree nursing enrollment be supported with appropriations in the annual Budget Act.

(d) That the funding for the baccalaureate degree enrollment expansions referenced in this section be funded within the general enrollment growth funding that is traditionally provided to the University of California during the annual state budget process.

SEC. 15. Article 5 (commencing with Section 128050) is added to Chapter 2 of Part 3 of Division 107 of the Health and Safety Code, to read:

Article 5. Health Care Workforce Clearinghouse

128050. The Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development shall establish a health care workforce clearinghouse to serve as the central source of health care workforce and educational data in the state. The clearinghouse shall be responsible for the collection, analysis, and distribution of information on the educational and employment trends for health care occupations in

the state. The activities of the clearinghouse shall be funded by appropriations made from the California Health Data and Planning Fund in accordance with subdivision (h) of Section 127280.

128051. The Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development shall work with the Employment Development Department's Labor Market Information Division, state licensing boards, and state higher education entities to collect, to the extent available, all of the following data:

(a) The current supply of health care workers, by specialty.

(b) The geographical distribution of health care workers, by specialty.

(c) The diversity of the health care workforce, by specialty, including, but not necessarily limited to, data on race, ethnicity, and languages spoken.

(d) The current and forecasted demand for health care workers, by specialty.

(e) The educational capacity to produce trained, certified, and licensed health care workers, by specialty and by geographical distribution, including, but not necessarily limited to, the number of educational slots, the number of enrollments, the attrition rate, and wait time to enter the program of study.

128052. The Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development shall prepare an annual report to the Legislature that does all of the following:

(a) Identifies education and employment trends in the health care profession.

(b) Reports on the current supply and demand for health care workers in California and gaps in the educational pipeline producing workers in specific occupations and geographic areas.

(c) Recommends state policy needed to address issues of workforce shortage and distribution.

Approved _____, 2007

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Governor