

ASSEMBLY, No. 1302

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

222nd LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2026 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman CODY D. MILLER

District 4 (Atlantic, Camden and Gloucester)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes process for county colleges to offer baccalaureate degree nursing programs.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Health Infrastructure Committee with technical review.



1 AN ACT concerning nursing education at county colleges and
2 supplementing chapter 64A of Title 18A of the New Jersey
3 Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

7
8 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

9 a. In October of 2010, the Institute of Medicine released its
10 landmark report, "The Future of Nursing," which recommended
11 increasing the proportion of baccalaureate degree nurses in the
12 workforce to 80 percent by 2020;

13 b. The committee charged with preparing the report's
14 recommendations indicated that in order to meet the demands of an
15 evolving health care system and meet the changing needs of
16 patients, nurses must achieve higher levels of education;

17 c. In May of 2010, the Tri-Council for Nursing also indicated
18 in its statement, "Education Advancement of Registered Nurses,"
19 that a more highly educated nursing workforce is critical to meeting
20 the nation's nursing needs and delivering safe, effective patient
21 care;

22 d. In New Jersey, there is not the capacity in baccalaureate
23 degree nursing programs at the four-year institutions of higher
24 education that is necessary to meet this identified critical need; and

25 e. One mechanism that would be cost effective for both the
26 State and its students would be to authorize county colleges to
27 establish baccalaureate degree nursing programs, which will thus
28 expand the number of seats in baccalaureate degree programs,
29 increase the pool of highly-trained nurses, and provide greater
30 access to quality health care for State residents.

31

32 2. a. The board of trustees of a county college established
33 pursuant to chapter 64A of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes,
34 may submit a proposal to the New Jersey Presidents' Council for
35 the establishment of a baccalaureate degree nursing program. The
36 proposal shall include:

37 (1) a brief description of the program, the unmet need for
38 graduates of the program in the geographic region to be served by
39 the program, and an estimated timeframe for implementation of the
40 program;

41 (2) identification of the facilities, equipment, and library and
42 academic resources that will be used to deliver the program;

43 (3) a cost analysis of establishing the program;

44 (4) the program's admission requirements, academic content,
45 curriculum, faculty credentials, and accreditation plan; and

46 (5) the program's enrollment projections and funding
47 requirements.

- 1 b. The New Jersey Presidents' Council shall review the
2 proposal, notify the board of trustees of any deficiencies in writing
3 within 30 days following receipt of the proposal, and provide the
4 board of trustees with an opportunity to correct the deficiencies.
- 5 c. Within 45 days of receipt of a completed proposal, the New
6 Jersey Presidents' Council shall forward the proposal, with its
7 recommendation for approval or disapproval of the proposal, to the
8 Secretary of Higher Education. The secretary shall consider the
9 council's recommendation and shall provide the county college with
10 a written determination on the approval or disapproval of the
11 proposal within 60 days of its receipt from the council.
- 12 d. The establishment of a baccalaureate degree nursing
13 program by a county college pursuant to the provisions of this act
14 shall be dependent upon the county college receiving accreditation
15 for the program by the New Jersey Board of Nursing.
- 16
- 17 3. This act shall take effect immediately.