

ASSEMBLY, No. 5059

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 19, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman HERB CONAWAY, JR.

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Requires DOH to establish certain nursing education and professional advancement programs.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/7/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning nursing education and professional
2 advancement and supplementing Title 26 of the Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. a. The Department of Health, in consultation with the
8 Association for Professionals in Infection Control and
9 Epidemiology, shall develop an infection prevention course
10 specifically designed for registered nurses employed in a long-term
11 care facility. The Department of Health shall develop methods to
12 encourage and incentivize registered nurses to complete the
13 infection prevention course. The infection prevention course shall
14 include, but shall not be limited to, instruction on the following
15 topics:

16 (1) modes of transmission, incubation periods, host resistance,
17 and susceptibility to various infections and communicable diseases;

18 (2) appropriate measures to prevent the spread of infection;

19 (3) processes used to sterilize, disinfect, and sanitize a health
20 care facility;

21 (4) management and communication skills necessary for the
22 coordination of an effective infection prevention program;

23 (5) regulations which govern infection prevention practice; and

24 (6) criteria for identifying health care associated infections in
25 patients.

26 b. (1) The Department of Health, in consultation with the
27 Board of Nursing, shall review nursing curriculum and develop
28 methods to encourage registered nurses to enroll in post-acute care
29 residency programs; and

30 (2) The Department of Health, in consultation with the Board of
31 Nursing, shall review the educational and clinical experience
32 requirements for the completion of a nursing degree and determine
33 if the requirements should be modified to better prepare registered
34 nurses to work in post-acute care settings.

35

36 2. a. The Department of Health shall develop an infection
37 prevention course for certified nurse aides. The Department of
38 Health shall include the infection prevention course as a required
39 component of annual in-service education for certified nurse aides.
40 The infection prevention course shall include, but shall not be
41 limited to, instruction on the following topics:

42 (1) modes of transmission, incubation periods, host resistance,
43 and susceptibility to various infections and communicable diseases;

44 (2) appropriate measures to prevent the spread of infection;

45 (3) processes used to sterilize, disinfect, and sanitize a health
46 care facility;

47 (4) management and communication skills necessary for the
48 coordination of an effective infection prevention program;

1 (5) regulations which govern infection prevention practice; and
2 (6) criteria for identifying health care associated infections in
3 patients.

4 b. The Department of Health shall review current certified
5 nurse aide curriculum, incorporate an infection prevention
6 component into the curriculum, and make any other necessary
7 modifications to the curriculum.

8
9 3. The Department of Health, in consultation with one or more
10 long-term care facilities in this State and representatives of labor
11 organizations, shall establish a pilot program to develop standards
12 for the professional advancement of certified nurse aides. The
13 standards for the professional advancement of certified nurse aides
14 may be based on: previous work experience, education level,
15 participation in educational opportunities, training, and work
16 performance. The standards for the professional advancement of
17 certified nurse aides may also be based on any applicable out-of-
18 State models for the professional advancement of certified nurse
19 aides.

20
21 4. The Commissioner of Health shall adopt rules and
22 regulations, in accordance with the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
23 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), as are necessary to effectuate
24 the provisions of this act.

25
26 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

27
28

29 STATEMENT

30

31 This bill requires the Department of Health (DOH) to establish
32 certain nursing education and professional advancement programs.

33 Under the bill, the DOH, in consultation with the Association for
34 Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, is to develop
35 an infection prevention course specifically designed for registered
36 nurses employed in a long-term care facility. The DOH is to
37 develop methods to encourage and incentivize registered nurses to
38 complete the infection prevention course. The infection prevention
39 course is to include instruction on the following topics: (1) modes
40 of transmission, incubation periods, host resistance, and
41 susceptibility to various infections and communicable diseases; (2)
42 appropriate measures to prevent the spread of infection; (3)
43 processes used to sterilize, disinfect, and sanitize a health care
44 facility; (4) management and communication skills necessary for
45 the coordination of an effective infection prevention program; (5)
46 regulations which govern infection prevention practice; and (6)
47 criteria for identifying health care associated infections in patients.

1 The DOH, in consultation with the Board of Nursing, is to
2 review nursing curriculum and develop methods to encourage
3 registered nurses to enroll in post-acute care residency programs.
4 The DOH, in consultation with the Board of Nursing, is to review
5 the educational and clinical experience requirements for the
6 completion of a nursing degree and determine if the requirements
7 should be modified to better prepare registered nurses to work in
8 post-acute care settings.

9 Under the bill, the DOH is to develop an infection prevention
10 course for certified nurse aides. The DOH is to include the
11 infection prevention course as a required component of annual in-
12 service education for certified nurse aides. The infection prevention
13 course is to include instruction on the same topics as the course
14 designed for registered nurses. The DOH is to review current
15 certified nurse aide curriculum, incorporate an infection prevention
16 component into the curriculum, and make any other necessary
17 modifications to the curriculum.

18 The bill provides that the DOH, in consultation with one or more
19 long-term care facilities in this State and representatives of labor
20 organizations, is to establish a pilot program to develop standards
21 for the professional advancement of certified nurse aides. The
22 standards for the professional advancement of certified nurse aides
23 may be based on: previous work experience, education level,
24 participation in educational opportunities, training, and work
25 performance. The standards may also be based on any applicable
26 out-of-State models for the professional advancement of certified
27 nurse aides.