

**SENATE, No. 3031**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**219th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED OCTOBER 19, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator STEPHEN M. SWEENEY**

**District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)**

**Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE**

**District 19 (Middlesex)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senator Pou**

**SYNOPSIS**

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

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/21/2020)**

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

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

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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.

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26 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

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29 STATEMENT

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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.