

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

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SENATE
S. No. 2555

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article XIV, Section 2 (3) provides that:

SEC. 12. The State shall:

x x x

(3) Establish and maintain a system of scholarship grants, student loan programs, subsidies and other incentives which shall be available to deserving students in both public and private schools, especially to the underprivileged.

Nursing has been one of the fastest rising professions in our country. Due to the increase in opportunities to work abroad, nursing graduates have steadily increased over the past few years. Fely Marilyn Lorenzo, head of the University of the Philippines' Institute of Health Policy and Development Studies, said that in 2006, 397,195 students graduated with a nursing degree, up from 296,000 in 2005.¹

Due to the increase in enrollment, our nursing education system is hard pressed to catch up with the demand. The current faculty shortage will be greatly compounded in the next few years by the retirement or migration of many of the current nurse faculty. Without sufficient nurse faculty, schools of nursing cannot expand enrollments, and the nursing shortage will continue to cripple our nation's health care delivery system.

¹ Evangelista, Katherine and Kristine L. Alave. Demand for Nurses Abroad Slowing Down. Philippine Daily Inquirer. July 8, 2008.

This bill seeks to mandate the Department of Health to encourage programs that will engage the cooperation of private institutions not only in producing better nursing faculty but also in raising the level of nursing education altogether.

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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1 AN ACT
2 TO CREATE A PILOT PROGRAM TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF GRADUATE
3 EDUCATED NURSE FACULTY TO MEET THE FUTURE NEED FOR QUALIFIED
4 NURSES
5

6 *Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of representatives of the Philippines in*
7 *Congress assembled:*

8 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Nurse Faculty Higher
9 Education Act of 2008.”

10 SECTION 2. *Purposes.* – The purposes of this part are to create a pilot program:

- 11 A. to provide scholarships to qualified nurses in pursuit of an advanced degree with the
12 goal of becoming faculty members in an accredited nursing program; and
- 13 B. to provide grants to partnerships between accredited schools of nursing and hospitals
14 or health facilities to fund release time for qualified nurse employees, so that those
15 employees can earn a salary while obtaining an advanced degree in nursing with the
16 goal of becoming nurse faculty.

17 SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the term:

- 18 (a) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Health;
- 19 (b) “Health facility” means a health center, a rural health clinic, a nursing home, a home
20 health agency, a hospice program, a public health clinic, a national or local department of public
21 health, a skilled nursing facility, or ambulatory surgical center.

22 SECTION 4. *Competitive Grants Authorized.* – The Secretary may, on a competitive
23 basis, award grants to, and enter into contracts and cooperative agreements with, partnerships

1 composed of an accredited school of nursing at an institution of higher education and a hospital
2 or health facility to establish not more than 5 pilot projects to enable such hospital or health
3 facility to retain its staff of experienced nurses while providing a mechanism to have these
4 individuals become, through an accelerated nursing education program, faculty members of an
5 accredited school of nursing.

6 SECTION 5. *Duration, Evaluation and Dissemination.* --

7 A. DURATION- Grants under this part shall be awarded for a period of 3 to 5 years.

8 B. MANDATORY EVALUATION AND DISSEMINATION- Grants under this part
9 shall be primarily used for evaluation, and dissemination to other institutions of
10 higher education, of the information obtained through the activities described in
11 Section 2 (B).

12 SECTION 6. *Considerations in Making Awards.* -- In awarding grants and entering into
13 contracts and cooperative agreements under this section, the Secretary shall consider the
14 following:

15 A. GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION- Providing an equitable geographic distribution of
16 such grants.

17 B. RURAL AND URBAN AREAS- Distributing such grants to urban and rural areas.

18 C. RANGE AND TYPE OF INSTITUTION- Ensuring that the activities to be assisted
19 are developed for a range of types and sizes of institutions of higher education.

20 D. PRIOR EXPERIENCE OR EXCEPTIONAL PROGRAMS- Institutions of higher
21 education with demonstrated prior experience in providing advanced nursing
22 education programs to prepare nurses interested in pursuing a faculty role.

23 SECTION 7. *Uses of Funds.* -- Funds made available by grant, contract, or cooperative
24 agreement under this part may be used:

25 A. to develop a new national demonstration initiative to align nursing education
26 with the emerging challenges of healthcare delivery; and

27 B. for any one or more of the following innovations in educational programs:

- 1 1. to develop a clinical simulation laboratory in a hospital, health
2 facility, or accredited school of nursing;
- 3 2. to purchase distance learning technologies;
- 4 3. to fund release time for qualified nurses enrolled in the graduate
5 nursing program;
- 6 4. to provide for faculty salaries; and
- 7 5. to collect and analyze data on educational outcomes.

8 SECTION 8. *Applications.* – Each partnership desiring to receive a grant, contract, or
9 cooperative agreement under this part shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in
10 such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may require. Each
11 application shall include assurances that:

- 12 A. the individuals enrolled in the program will be qualified nurses in pursuit of a
13 master's or doctoral degree in nursing and have a contractual obligation with the
14 hospital or health facility that is in partnership with the institution of higher
15 education;
- 16 B. the hospital or health facility of employment would be the clinical site for the
17 accredited school of nursing program;
- 18 C. individuals will also maintain their employment on a part time basis to the hospital or
19 health facility that allowed them to participate in the program, and will receive an
20 income from the hospital or health facility, as a part time employee, and release times
21 or flexible schedules to accommodate their class schedule.
- 22 D. upon completion of the program, individuals agree to teach for 2 years in an
23 accredited school of nursing for each year of support the individual received under
24 this program

25 SECTION 9. *Appropriations.* – To carry out the provisions of this Act, such amount as
26 hereby necessary is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury.

1 SECTION 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or
2 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
3 valid and subsisting.

4 SECTION 11. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
5 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or is inconsistent
6 with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

7 SECTION 12. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
8 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

9 Approved,

/apm081508