

Senate Bill No. 1245

CHAPTER 718

An act to add and repeal Article 8 (commencing with Section 89270) of Chapter 2 of Part 55 of the Education Code, relating to the California State University.

[Approved by Governor September 23, 2004. Filed with Secretary of State September 23, 2004.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1245, Kuehl. California State University: Entry-Level Master's Nursing Programs Act.

Existing law establishes the California State University and its various campuses under the administration of the Trustees of the California State University.

This bill would establish, until January 1, 2014, the Entry-Level Master's Nursing Programs Act. The bill would require the Chancellor of the California State University, in consultation with the Board of Registered Nursing, to determine, in accordance with the bill, which campuses are eligible for supplemental funds for establishing entry-level master's programs in nursing at campuses of the California State University, and to annually establish the total amount of funding necessary to support 4 entry-level master's degree programs in nursing at the California State University.

The bill would authorize the California State University to enroll students in both oncampus credit courses and self-supporting extended education courses in order to recoup the remaining annual actual program costs in excess of any supplemental funding allocated pursuant to the bill. The bill would require the chancellor to grant first priority, in allocating supplemental funding under this bill, to campuses that primarily serve, or train nurses to serve, counties in the state with low nursing ratios, and offer programs that are established in collaboration with private industry partners that provide specified forms of financial assistance.

The bill would encourage the California State University, if no funding is provided in the annual Budget Act to fulfill the obligations of the bill, to make entry-level master's program courses available to students through self-supporting extended education programs. The bill would require the chancellor, on or before January 1 of each year, to prepare and submit to the Legislature a report regarding the status of the California State University entry-level master's programs.



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

SECTION 1. Article 8 (commencing with Section 89270) is added to Chapter 2 of Part 55 of the Education Code, to read:

Article 8. Entry-Level Master's Nursing Programs

89270. This article shall be known, and may be cited, as the Entry-Level Master's Nursing Programs Act.

89270.5. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) In order to meet a growing demand for registered nurses and nurses with master's of science in nursing degrees in this state, the number of positions in professional nursing programs must be increased.

(b) The shortage of faculty for schools of nursing is a recognized problem not only in California, but nationally.

(c) Nurses with master's of science in nursing degrees are an important academic resource in nursing and are needed to fill new positions in professional nursing programs as well as to replace retiring faculty.

(d) Qualified applicants with baccalaureate degrees in nonnursing fields who are seeking a master's of science in nursing degree must first complete a registered nurse prelicensure program. These students compete for limited positions in these undergraduate prelicensure programs and are placed on the same lists for admission as students who have not earned baccalaureate degrees.

(e) Most registered nurse prelicensure programs are oversubscribed. Applicants with baccalaureate degrees have a proven academic capability and are more academically advanced than are students who have not earned baccalaureate degrees and with whom they compete for admission to nursing programs.

(f) Currently, one campus within the California State University system offers an innovative graduate level program for students with nonnursing baccalaureate degrees. This program creates a registered nurse prelicensure program approved by the Board of Registered Nursing that qualifies the student for licensure as a registered nurse and also awards a master's of science in nursing degree upon completion of the school's master's degree program.

(g) This entry-level master's program graduates new licensees, offers greater flexibility for prospective nursing students, and adds to the pool of nurses with a master's of science in nursing degree.

89272. As used in this article, the following terms have the following meanings:



(a) “Entry-level master’s program” means a program of study in nursing that provides qualified applicants who have a baccalaureate degree in a nonnursing field with the didactic knowledge and clinical skills in the prelicensure sequence of the program to meet the qualifications for licensure as a registered nurse, followed by a second sequence leading to a master’s degree in nursing.

(b) “Entry-level master’s program prelicensure sequence” means that portion of the entry-level master’s program that qualifies the student for licensure as a registered nurse.

(c) “Prelicensure program” means the courses of instruction prescribed by the Board of Registered Nursing for licensure, in a program in this state accredited by the board for training registered nurses, or in a school of nursing outside of this state that, in the opinion of the board at the time the application is filed with the board, are equivalent to the minimum requirements of the board for licensure established for an accredited program in this state.

(d) “Newly established programs” means any California State University entry-level master’s program established or supported with supplemental funds provided under this article.

(e) “Private partners” means any organization or foundation that helps fund a California State University entry-level master’s program for the purpose of establishing or expanding access to the California State University entry-level master’s program.

(f) “Supplemental funds” means all sums appropriated to the California State University through the annual Budget Act for the purpose of establishing or expanding access to the California State University entry-level master’s program in accordance with this article.

89274. (a) The Chancellor of the California State University, in consultation with the Board of Registered Nursing, shall determine which campuses are eligible for supplemental funds for establishing entry-level master’s programs in nursing at campuses of the California State University according to this section and according to all of the following criteria:

(1) The campus has a nursing program that is approved by the Board of Registered Nursing.

(2) In order to be eligible for funds, a program shall include an 18-month entry-level master’s program prelicensure sequence that is followed by an 18-month entry-level master’s program sequence.

(3) In order to be eligible for funds, a California State University program shall plan for, and ultimately enroll, at least 10 students with bachelor’s degrees in the entry-level master’s program prelicensure sequence, but no campus may receive funds for more than 20 new prelicensure students per academic year.



(4) Appropriated funds may not supplant funds that would otherwise be budgeted for graduate or undergraduate nursing education.

(b) This section does not limit or restrict the maximum number of students that can be enrolled in the entry-level master's prelicensure sequence or the entry-level master's program.

89276. (a) The chancellor shall annually establish the total amount of funding necessary to support four entry-level master's degree programs in nursing at the California State University.

(b) Funding provided under this article may not exceed one-half the annual actual cost of the entry-level master's program.

(c) The California State University may enroll students in both oncampus credit courses and self-supporting Extended Education courses in order to recoup the remaining annual actual program costs in excess of any supplemental funding that is allocated pursuant to this article.

(d) The chancellor shall allocate supplemental funds pursuant to subdivision (a), granting first priority to campuses that fulfill one or both of the following criteria:

(1) Primarily serve, or train nurses to serve, those counties with the lowest ratio of registered nurses per 100,000 residents.

(2) Offer programs that are established in collaboration with private industry partners, if the private industry partner provides financial assistance in the form of one or more of the following:

(A) Direct financial support.

(B) Tuition or student fee assistance.

(C) In-kind nursing faculty, staff, or mentor assistance.

(e) If no funding is provided in the annual Budget Act to fulfill the obligations of this article, the California State University is encouraged to make entry-level master's program courses available to students through self-supporting Extended Education programs, whereby students pay the full cost of instruction, as determined by the individual campus.

(f) On or before January 1 of each year, the chancellor shall prepare and submit to the Legislature a report regarding the status of the California State University entry-level master's programs, including, but not necessarily limited to, the number of programs created, the number of licensed registered nurses resulting from the entry-level master's prelicensure program component, and the number of nurses with a master's degree in nursing that have graduated from California State University entry-level master's programs.



89278. This article shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2014, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2014, deletes or extends that date.

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