

AMENDMENTS TO LB1091

Introduced by Health and Human Services.

1 1. Strike the original sections and insert the following new
2 sections:

3 Section 1. Sections 1 to 6 of this act shall be known and may be
4 cited as the Nebraska Nursing Incentive Act.

5 Sec. 2. The Legislature finds and declares that:

6 (1) There is a nursing shortage in Nebraska. Nebraska will
7 experience a shortage of more than five thousand nurses by 2025. Seventy-
8 three of Nebraska's ninety-three counties have less than the national
9 average ratio of registered nurses to patients. Sixty-six counties in
10 Nebraska have been deemed medically underserved. Nine counties in
11 Nebraska have no registered nurses, and four counties have just one
12 registered nurse; and

13 (2) The nursing shortage affects both Nebraska's physical health and
14 its economic health. Lack of care impedes the ability of communities
15 throughout the state to attract and retain residents and the businesses
16 that employ them. The issue has only become more exacerbated during the
17 COVID-19 pandemic.

18 Sec. 3. For purposes of the Nebraska Nursing Incentive Act:

19 (1) Approved nursing program means a program that (a) is approved
20 pursuant to sections 38-2232 to 38-2236, (b) is offered by a public or
21 private postsecondary institution in Nebraska, and (c) consists of
22 courses of instruction in regularly scheduled classes leading only to an
23 associate degree, diploma, or certificate in nursing; and

24 (2) Department means the Department of Health and Human Services.

25 Sec. 4. The department shall administer a scholarship program under
26 the Nebraska Nursing Incentive Act and shall award scholarships to
27 students who qualify under section 5 of this act.

1 Sec. 5. (1) To qualify for a scholarship under the Nebraska Nursing
2 Incentive Act, a student shall (a) be a resident of Nebraska, (b) intend
3 to enroll or be enrolled in an approved nursing program, (c) intend to
4 practice as a licensed practical nurse, licensed registered nurse, or
5 nurse aide upon completion of the approved nursing program, and (d) agree
6 in writing to work for two years in this state as a licensed practical
7 nurse, licensed registered nurse, or nurse aide upon completion of the
8 approved nursing program.

9 (2) A student who meets the requirements of subsection (1) of this
10 section shall receive a scholarship of up to two thousand five hundred
11 dollars per semester.

12 Sec. 6. It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate five
13 million dollars from Federal Funds for fiscal year 2022-23 to the
14 department to carry out the Nebraska Nursing Incentive Act. The Federal
15 Funds to be appropriated are from funds allocated to the State of
16 Nebraska from the federal Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund pursuant
17 to the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2,
18 Subtitle M, Sec. 9901.