

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 586

Introduced by Hughes, 24; Lippincott, 34.

Read first time January 17, 2023

Committee: Health and Human Services

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the Nebraska Center for Nursing; to amend
2 sections 71-1797 and 71-1798, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
3 and section 71-1799, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2022;
4 to state intent regarding appropriations; to provide for expanding
5 clinical training sites for nurses; and to repeal the original
6 sections.

7 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 71-1797, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
2 amended to read:

3 71-1797 The Legislature finds that it is imperative that the State
4 of Nebraska protect its investment and the progress made in its efforts
5 to alleviate the nursing shortage which exists. The Legislature also
6 finds that the Nebraska Center for Nursing will provide the appropriate
7 means to do so. It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate funds
8 necessary for the center to carry out the Nebraska Center for Nursing
9 Act, including, but not limited to, funds to expand clinical training
10 sites as provided in subsection (3) of section 71-1798 in the amount of
11 three million dollars from the General Fund for fiscal year 2023-24 and
12 seven million dollars from the General Fund for fiscal year 2024-25.

13 Sec. 2. Section 71-1798, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
14 amended to read:

15 71-1798 (1) The Nebraska Center for Nursing is established. The
16 center shall address issues of supply and demand for nurses, including
17 issues of recruitment, retention, and utilization of nurses. The
18 Legislature finds that the center will repay the state's investment by
19 providing an ongoing strategy for the allocation of the state's resources
20 directed towards nursing.

21 (2) The primary goals for the center are:

22 (a) ~~(1)~~ To develop a strategic statewide plan to alleviate the
23 nursing shortage in Nebraska by:

24 (i) ~~(a)~~ Establishing and maintaining a database on nursing supply
25 and demand in Nebraska, including current supply and demand and future
26 projections; and

27 (ii) ~~(b)~~ Selecting priorities from the plan to be addressed;

28 (b) ~~(2)~~ To convene various groups representative of nurses, other
29 health care providers, business and industry, consumers, legislators, and
30 educators to:

31 (i) ~~(a)~~ Review and comment on data analysis prepared for the center;

1 (ii) ~~(b)~~ Recommend systemic changes, including strategies for
2 implementation of recommended changes; and

3 (iii) ~~(c)~~ Evaluate and report the results of these efforts to the
4 Legislature and the public; and

5 (c) ~~(3)~~ To enhance and promote recognition, reward, and renewal
6 activities for nurses by:

7 (i) ~~(a)~~ Proposing and creating recognition, reward, and renewal
8 activities; and

9 (ii) ~~(b)~~ Promoting media and positive image-building efforts for
10 nursing.

11 (3) The center shall expand clinical training sites for nurses
12 throughout the state, giving preference to areas that have lower numbers
13 of registered nurses per capita compared to the state average, and shall
14 develop programs that:

15 (a) Incentivize clinical nurses to become clinical nurse faculty;

16 (b) Incentivize nurse faculty to partner with staff nurses in the
17 development of clinical nurse faculty;

18 (c) Expand simulation training for nurse clinical education; and

19 (d) Incentivize hospital facilities to support the center in
20 carrying out this subsection.

21 Sec. 3. Section 71-1799, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
22 2022, is amended to read:

23 71-1799 (1) The Nebraska Center for Nursing Board is created. The
24 board shall be a policy-setting board for the Nebraska Center for
25 Nursing. The board shall be appointed by the Governor as follows:

26 (a) Ten members, at least three of whom shall be registered nurses,
27 one of whom shall be a licensed practical nurse, one of whom shall be a
28 representative of the hospital industry, and one of whom shall be a
29 representative of the long-term care industry;

30 (b) One nurse educator recommended by the Board of Regents of the
31 University of Nebraska;

1 (c) One nurse educator recommended by the Nebraska Community College
2 Association;

3 (d) One nurse educator recommended by the Nebraska Association of
4 Independent Colleges and Universities; and

5 (e) Three members recommended by the State Board of Health.

6 (2) The initial terms of the members of the Nebraska Center for
7 Nursing Board shall be:

8 (a) Five of the ten members appointed under subdivision (1)(a) of
9 this section shall serve for one year and five shall serve for two years;

10 (b) The member recommended by the Board of Regents shall serve for
11 three years;

12 (c) The member recommended by the Nebraska Community College
13 Association shall serve for two years;

14 (d) The member recommended by the Nebraska Association of
15 Independent Colleges and Universities shall serve for one year; and

16 (e) The members recommended by the State Board of Health shall serve
17 for three years.

18 The initial appointments shall be made within sixty days after July
19 13, 2000. After the initial terms expire, the terms of all of the members
20 shall be three years with no member serving more than two consecutive
21 terms.

22 (3) The Nebraska Center for Nursing Board shall have the following
23 powers and duties:

24 (a) To determine operational policy;

25 (b) To elect a chairperson and officers to serve two-year terms. The
26 chairperson and officers may not succeed themselves;

27 (c) To establish a committee to examine expanding nursing clinical
28 opportunities throughout the state while giving preference to areas that
29 have lower numbers of registered nurses per capita compared to the state
30 average;

31 (d) (e) To establish other committees of the board as needed;

1 (e) ~~(d)~~ To appoint a multidisciplinary advisory council for input
2 and advice on policy matters;

3 (f) ~~(e)~~ To implement the major functions of the Nebraska Center for
4 Nursing; and

5 (g) ~~(f)~~ To seek and accept nonstate funds for carrying out center
6 policy.

7 (4) The board members shall be reimbursed for expenses as provided
8 in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.

9 (5) The Department of Health and Human Services shall provide
10 administrative support for the board. The department shall provide
11 additional staff to support the board in carrying out subsection (3) of
12 section 71-1798. The board may contract for additional support not
13 provided by the department.

14 Sec. 4. Original sections 71-1797 and 71-1798, Reissue Revised
15 Statutes of Nebraska, and section 71-1799, Revised Statutes Cumulative
16 Supplement, 2022, are repealed.