



Bob Bennett

Bill Analysis

Legislative Service Commission

H.B. 333

124th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Latell, Carano, Sferra, Britton, R. Miller, Distel, Allen, Seitz, Krupinski, Strahorn, Flannery, Aslanides, Seaver, Key

BILL SUMMARY

- Establishes the Nursing Education Reimbursement Program.
- Requires the Ohio Board of Nursing to administer the program.
- Provides that to qualify for reimbursement under the program a registered nurse must have completed, after July 1, 2001, an approved pre-licensure nursing education program in Ohio, hold a valid license to practice as a registered nurse in this state, and have completed at least two years of full-time employment in an Ohio hospital.
- Provides for the program to reimburse an eligible registered nurse the lesser of (1) the average, annual, actual costs of the nurse's pre-licensure nursing education program and (2) the statewide average of nursing education instructional costs for the year in which the nurse completed the pre-licensure nursing education program.
- Provides that an eligible registered nurse with more than two years of full-time employment in an Ohio hospital may also be reimbursed for additional years.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Nursing Education Reimbursement Program

(R.C. 4723.11 and 4723.12)

The bill establishes the Nursing Education Reimbursement Program. The Ohio Board of Nursing is to administer the program. Under the program, a

registered nurse who meets certain conditions is to be reimbursed for costs of the nurse's post-secondary nursing education.

Eligibility requirements

A registered nurse must meet three conditions to be eligible for reimbursement under the Nursing Education Reimbursement Program. First, the registered nurse must have completed, after July 1, 2001, an Ohio Board of Nursing approved pre-licensure nursing education program from a private or public institution in Ohio.¹ Second, the registered nurse must hold a valid license to practice as a registered nurse in this state. Third, the registered nurse must have completed at least two years of full-time employment in an Ohio hospital.²

Reimbursement under program

The amount that an eligible registered nurse is to be reimbursed under the program is the lesser of (1) the average, annual, actual costs of the nurse's pre-licensure nursing education program and (2) the statewide average of nursing education instructional costs for state universities that offer such programs for the year in which the nurse completed the pre-licensure nursing education program.³ In calculating the average, annual, actual costs of the registered nurse's pre-licensure nursing education program, the annual cost of instructional and general fees for enrollment are used.⁴ Both the average, annual, actual costs of the registered nurse's pre-licensure nursing education program and the statewide

¹ *A pre-licensure nursing education program is a post-secondary education program that leads to a degree or diploma an individual must hold to be eligible to take the examination for licensure as a registered nurse.*

² *All of the following are considered a hospital for the purpose of the Nursing Education Reimbursement Program: (1) an institution classified as a hospital in accordance with Public Health Council rules in which diagnostic, medical, surgical, obstetrical, psychiatric, or rehabilitation care is provided for a continuous period longer than 24 hours, (2) a health maintenance organization-operated hospital, and (3) a Department of Mental Health-operated hospital.*

³ *The universities used in calculating the statewide average are the University of Akron, Bowling Green State University, Central State University, University of Cincinnati, Cleveland State University, Kent State University, Miami University, Ohio University, Ohio State University, Shawnee State University, University of Toledo, Wright State University, and Youngstown State University.*

⁴ *The average, annual, actual costs of the nurse's pre-licensure nursing education program must be documented in accordance with the Board's rules.*

average of state universities' nursing education instructional costs are to include an estimated amount for the purchase of necessary textbooks.

A registered nurse with more than two years of full-time employment in an Ohio hospital is also to be reimbursed for additional years. However, no registered nurse may be reimbursed under the bill for more than the lesser of (1) the number of years the nurse was enrolled as a full-time student in a pre-licensure nursing education program or (2) five years.

Rules

The Board of Nursing is required to adopt rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act for the reimbursement of eligible registered nurses under the Nursing Education Reimbursement Program. The rules must provide for all of the following:

(1) The annual calculation of the statewide average nursing education instructional costs for that year;

(2) Requirements for eligible registered nurses to document completion of a pre-licensure nursing education program at a private or public institution in Ohio, the number of years of enrollment in a program, and the average cost of instructional and general fees and textbooks for the years of enrollment;

(3) Requirements for eligible registered nurses to document full-time employment by Ohio hospitals;

(4) Application procedures and deadlines for filing for reimbursement under the program.

COMMENT

The bill does not include funding for the Nursing Education Reimbursement Program.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	07-31-01	p. 808

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