



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: Sub. S.B. 89 of the 128th G.A. **Date:** July 13, 2009
Status: As Reported by Senate Health, Human Services, & Aging **Sponsor:** Sen. Morano

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No — No local cost

Contents: Nurse prescriptive authority, cooperation among institutions of higher education and nursing education, and allocations from the Nurse Education Assistance Fund

State Fiscal Highlights

- The bill requires the Board of Nursing to issue a certificate to prescribe to qualified nurses who meet the requirements in the bill and to amend rules to reflect the changes to the law governing prescriptive authority for out-of-state and federally employed advanced practice nurses. According to the Board, issuing the certificates and promulgating rules will be absorbed as part of the Board's normal administrative functions and will have little, if any, fiscal effect on the Board.
- The Board of Regents may incur minimal administrative expenses to establish a mechanism for communication, cooperation, and partnerships for meeting statewide nursing education needs through the Ohio Skills Bank.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on political subdivisions.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Prescriptive authority

Under current law, an advanced practice nurse authorized to practice in Ohio as a clinical nurse specialist, certified nurse-midwife, or certified nurse practitioner may acquire the authority to prescribe drugs and therapeutic devices by obtaining a certificate to prescribe through the Board of Nursing. To obtain the certificate, a nurse must first obtain an externship certificate to prescribe and complete an externship.

Under the bill, a nurse who practiced or is practicing as a clinical nurse specialist, certified nurse-midwife, or certified nurse practitioner in another jurisdiction or as an employee of the United States government with perspective authority is exempt from all or part of the requirement to complete an externship to obtain a certificate to prescribe if the nurse meets certain requirements. The bill requires the Board to issue a certificate to prescribe (not an externship certificate to prescribe) to each out-of-state or federally employed nurse whose prescriptive authority includes controlled substances and who meets the requirements outlined in the bill. The bill also requires the Board to amend its rules to reflect the changes to the law governing prescriptive authority for out-of-state and federally employed advanced practice nurses. According to the Board, issuing the certificate to prescribe instead of the externship certificate to prescribe to qualified nurses will not affect the Board's operational costs. Rule promulgation will also be absorbed as part of the Board's normal administrative functions and will have a negligible fiscal effect on the Board.

Nursing programs

The bill requires the Chancellor of the Board of Regents (BOR) to establish a mechanism through the Ohio Skills Bank that facilitates communication, cooperation, and partnerships among all state institutions of higher education that have nursing programs and between those institutions and hospitals. The collaborations are to improve the ability of Ohio's nursing programs to meet regional and statewide nursing needs. This requirement may increase BOR's administrative expenses.

The bill also makes changes to the allocation of a portion of Nurse Education Assistance Loan Program (NEALP) funds. NEALP provides up to four years of need-based financial assistance to Ohio students enrolled in approved Ohio nurse education programs. After they are employed in the field of nursing or nursing instruction, NEALP recipients are eligible to have 100% of their outstanding loans cancelled. Current law dictates how funds under NEALP are to be distributed until January 1, 2012, at which date the Chancellor must determine how funds are to be distributed. As part of the current law allocation, 25% of funds are awarded to students enrolled in prelicensure programs for licensed practical nurses. The bill modifies this requirement by allowing the Chancellor to determine the allocation of this 25%, "with preference given to programs aimed at increasing enrollment in an area of need." Approximately

\$725,000 in NEALP funds will be awarded in FY 2009. Based on this level of awards, the bill affects the allocation of about \$181,250 (25% x \$725,000) each fiscal year.

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