#### 18A:65-89

#### LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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**LAWS OF**: 2002 **CHAPTER**: 116

**NJSA:** 18A:65-89 (NJ Collaborating Center for Nursing)

BILL NO: S495 (Substituted for A2727/794)

**SPONSOR(S):** Vitale and others

DATE INTRODUCED: Pre-filed

COMMITTEE: ASSEMBLY: Health and Human Services

**SENATE:** Health and Human Services

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes

DATE OF PASSAGE: ASSEMBLY: October 28, 2002

SENATE: October 31, 2002

**DATE OF APPROVAL:** December 12, 2002

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL (3<sup>rd</sup> reprint enacted)

(Amendments during passage denoted by superscript numbers)

S495

**SPONSORS STATEMENT**: (Begins on page 5 of original bill) Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: <u>ASSEMBLY</u>: <u>Yes</u>

SENATE: Yes

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: Yes

<u>LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE</u>: <u>Yes</u>

A2727/794

**SPONSORS STATEMENT (A2727)**: (Begins on page 5 of original bill) Yes

**SPONSORS STATEMENT (A794)**: (Begins on page 5 of original bill) Yes

Bill and sponsors statement identical to S495

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: <u>ASSEMBLY</u>: <u>Yes</u>

SENATE: No

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENTS: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: Yes

#### **FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:**

To check for circulating copies, contact New Jersey State Government Publications at the State Library (609) 278-2640 ext. 103<u>or</u> mailto:refdesk@njstatelib.org

REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: Yes

"Nurse center is OK'd by governor," 12-13-2002 Home News and Tribune, p.A1

Title 18A.
Chapter 65.
Article 18.(New)
New Jersey
Collaborating Center
for Nursing
§§1-5 C.18A:65-89
to 18A:65-93

#### P.L. 2002, CHAPTER 116, approved December 12, 2002 Senate, No. 495 (Third Reprint)

1 AN ACT establishing the New Jersey Collaborating Center for
2 Nursing [,] and 1 supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey
3 Statutes 1 [and making an appropriation] 1.

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5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State 6 of New Jersey:

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1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

a. New Jersey Colleagues in Caring Collaborative was established in 1996 through a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant to assist nursing schools, hospitals and other nursing service institutions to initiate concerted workforce development systems within the State;

b. Under the terms of the grant, New Jersey Colleagues in Caring 13 14 is responsible for: conducting a comprehensive assessment of the current and projected nursing care needs in the State; developing a 15 dependable system for estimating future needs; analyzing the capacity 16 of the State's nursing workforce to meet these needs and the area's 17 18 educational infrastructure to produce the numbers and types of nursing 19 professionals required; developing a Statewide nursing workforce 20 consortium among schools, providers and other relevant institutions 21 to plan and implement State models that enhance educational and 22 career mobility for nurses; and establishing a formal mechanism to keep the consortium in place over the long term so that monitoring of 23 24 nursing care needs and the building of a workforce with corresponding 25 strengths become ongoing components of the State's health care 26 structure;

c. Establishment of an independent nursing center, which will function as a future-oriented research and development organization that will develop and disseminate objective information and provide an ongoing strategy for the allocation of State resources directed toward the nursing work force, will assure the best possible nursing care for the residents of the State; and

EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup> Senate SHH committee amendments adopted June 13, 2002.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Assembly AHH committee amendments adopted October 3, 2002.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Assembly floor amendments adopted October 17, 2002.

d. Therefore, it is appropriate to establish the New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing to provide an investment in nursing by ensuring that the strategic work begun by New Jersey Colleagues in Caring continues under a State-supported infrastructure.

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- 2. There is established the New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, to address issues of supply and demand of the nursing workforce, including education, recruitment, retention and utilization of adequately prepared nursing personnel. The center shall be administered by an executive director under the direction of the New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing board established pursuant to this act.
  - The primary goals of the center shall be to:
  - a. develop a strategic plan for the continuing development of an adequate nursing workforce, in number and in education and training, to meet the needs of New Jersey residents by:
- 17 (1) collecting and analyzing information about and maintaining a 18 database of the current and projected supply and demand of the 19 nursing workforce, including home health aides, nursing assistants, 20 unlicensed assistive personnel, registered nurses, practical nurses, 21 advanced practice nurses and doctorally prepared faculty; and
  - (2) determining priorities to be addressed from the plan;
  - b. continue the collaborative approach originating from New Jersey Colleagues in Caring by convening representative groups of health care stakeholders to:
- 26 (1) review and comment on the data analysis conducted by the 27 center;
  - (2) recommend systemic changes in the State's health care system, including strategies for the implementation of the changes; and
- 30 (3) disseminate the results of the reviews and recommendations to 31 the Legislature, health care stakeholders and consumers;
- c. acknowledge the valued contribution of the nursing work forceto the health of the State by:
- 34 (1) promoting positive image-building efforts in nursing;
- 35 (2) supporting existing mechanisms for rewarding outstanding nurses; and
  - (3) reporting with evidence-based data the relationship of nursing care to the positive outcomes of the health of consumers;
  - d. provide consultation, technical assistance and information related to nursing resources within and outside of the State and serve as a clearinghouse for data related to nursing resources;
- e. foster collaboration among members of the health care community to achieve policy consensus, promote diversity and enhance the knowledge of nurses and others in health policy and health services research; and
- 46 f. seek competitive funding to support specific research endeavors

or model programs to enhance the resources available in supporting innovative projects.

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- 3. The New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing shall be governed by a <sup>2</sup>[16-member] 17-member<sup>2</sup> board. A majority of the members first appointed to the board shall include nurse representatives from among the members of the New Jersey Colleagues in Caring <sup>1</sup>[Collaborative] collaborative<sup>1</sup>.
  - a. The members shall be appointed as follows:
- 10 (1) <sup>1</sup>[two] <u>four</u> members appointed by the President of the Senate who include: one representative of acute care facilities recommended 11 by the New Jersey Hospital Association; <sup>1</sup>[and] <sup>1</sup> one representative 12 of long-term care facilities recommended by the <sup>1</sup>Health Care 13 <u>Association of 1 New Jersey 1 [Association of Health Care Facilities] 1;</u> 14 <sup>1</sup>[and two members appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate 15 who include: ] one registered professional nurse recommended by the 16 New Jersey State Nurses Association; and one representative of home 17 health care agencies recommended by the Home Health Assembly of 18 19 New Jersey;
- 20 (2) <sup>1</sup>[two] four <sup>1</sup> members appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly who include: one registered professional nurse 21 22 recommended by the New Jersey State Nurses Association; <sup>1</sup>[and]<sup>1</sup> 23 one registered professional nurse recommended by the Organization 24 of Nurse Executives - New Jersey; <sup>1</sup> [and two members appointed by the Minority Leader of the General Assembly who include: ] one 25 26 representative of acute care facilities recommended by the <sup>1</sup>[University Health System of] <sup>1</sup> New Jersey <sup>1</sup>Council of Teaching 27 Hospitals<sup>1</sup>; and one licensed practical nurse recommended by the 28 29 Licensed Practical Nurse Association of New Jersey; and
- (3) <sup>2</sup>[eight] nine<sup>2</sup> members appointed by the Governor who 30 include: one registered professional nurse recommended by the New 31 Jersey State Nurses Association; one registered professional nurse 32 recommended by the New Jersey League for Nursing; <sup>2</sup>one 33 <sup>3</sup>[registered professional] health care facility staff<sup>3</sup> nurse <sup>3</sup>providing 34 direct patient care, who is recommended by the Health 35 Professionals and Allied Employees, AFT/AFL-CIO an organization 36 that represents such nurses<sup>3</sup>;<sup>2</sup> two consumers of health care; one 37 representative of baccalaureate and higher degree university nursing 38 39 programs recommended by the Council of Baccalaureate and Higher 40 Degree Programs; one representative of associate degree nursing programs recommended by the Council of Associate Degree programs; 41 42 one representative of diploma nursing programs recommended by the 43 Association of Diploma Schools of Professional Nursing; and one 44 representative of practical nursing programs recommended by the Licensed Practical Nurses Education Council. 45

b. The term of office of each member shall be two years; except that, of the members first appointed, two members appointed by the Senate President shall serve for a term of one year and two for a term of two years; two members appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly shall serve for a term of one year and two for a term of two years; and four members appointed by the Governor shall serve for a term of one year and <sup>2</sup>[four] five<sup>2</sup> for a term of two years.

A member shall hold office for the term of his appointment and until his successor has been appointed and qualified. All vacancies shall be filled for the balance of the unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment. A member of the board is eligible for reappointment, but no member shall serve for more than two consecutive terms.

- c. The board shall meet at least quarterly and shall meet as soon as practical following the appointment of its members to choose, from among the members and by a majority vote of the members, a chairperson and such other officers as it deems appropriate. The chairperson and other officers shall serve in their elected office for a term of two years and may not succeed themselves in office.
- d. Members shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for the reasonable travel and other out-of-pocket expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in a manner consistent with the policies and procedures of Rutgers, The State University <sup>1</sup> of New Jersey <sup>1</sup>.

- 4. The board shall:
- a. determine global policies for the center;
- b. implement the primary goals of the center as established in this act;
  - c. appoint a multidisciplinary advisory council to provide input and advice on policy matters. The advisory council shall include representatives from all of the organizations represented in the collaborative of New Jersey Colleagues in Caring;
  - d. appoint a full-time executive director who shall serve at the pleasure of the board and shall be a person qualified by training and experience to perform the duties of the office. The board shall authorize the executive director to employ such other staff as the executive director deems necessary and within the limits of funds available to the center. All policies and procedures concerning the hiring of center employees shall be the same as and consistent with the applicable policies and procedures of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey;
  - e. apply for and accept grants of money available for carrying out the policies and activities of the center from the federal government, and accept gifts, grants and bequests of funds from individuals, foundations, corporations, governmental agencies and other

## S495 [3R] 5

1 organizations and institutions to carry out the purposes of this act; and 2 f. submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature one year 3 after the center is established, and every two years thereafter, on its 4 activities and findings. The report may include such recommendations 5 for legislative action as the board deems appropriate. The board shall make its annual report available to members of the public, upon 6 7 request. 8 9 <sup>1</sup>[5. There is appropriated \$1,200,000 from the General Fund to 10 the Department of State to establish the New Jersey Collaborative Center for Nursing at Rutgers, The State University, in accordance 11 with the provisions of this act.]<sup>1</sup> 12 13 14 <sup>1</sup>5. Until such time as the members of the board are appointed, the New Jersey Colleagues in Caring collaborative shall be responsible for 15 establishing the center and implementing the purposes of this act.<sup>1</sup> 16 17 6. This act shall take effect immediately. 18 19 20 21 22 23 Establishes New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing.

## SENATE, No. 495

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

## 210th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2002 SESSION

Sponsored by:

**Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE** 

**District 19 (Middlesex)** 

Senator JOHN J. MATHEUSSEN

**District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)** 

**Co-Sponsored by:** 

Senators Cafiero, Buono, Allen and Singer

#### **SYNOPSIS**

Establishes New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing; appropriates \$1,200,000.

#### **CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/14/2002)

AN ACT establishing the New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing,
 supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes and making an
 appropriation.

**BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

- 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:
- a. New Jersey Colleagues in Caring was established in 1996 through a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant to assist nursing schools, hospitals and other nursing service institutions to initiate concerted workforce development systems within the State;
- b. Under the terms of the grant, New Jersey Colleagues in Caring is responsible for: conducting a comprehensive assessment of the current and projected nursing care needs in the State; developing a dependable system for estimating future needs; analyzing the capacity of the State's nursing workforce to meet these needs and the area's educational infrastructure to produce the numbers and types of nursing professionals required; developing a Statewide nursing workforce consortium among schools, providers and other relevant institutions to plan and implement State models that enhance educational and career mobility for nurses; and establishing a formal mechanism to keep the consortium in place over the long term so that monitoring of nursing care needs and the building of a workforce with corresponding strengths become ongoing components of the State's health care structure;
  - c. Establishment of an independent nursing center, which will function as a future-oriented research and development organization that will develop and disseminate objective information and provide an ongoing strategy for the allocation of State resources directed toward the nursing work force, will assure the best possible nursing care for the residents of the State; and
  - d. Therefore, it is appropriate to establish the New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing to provide an investment in nursing by ensuring that the strategic work begun by New Jersey Colleagues in Caring continues under a State-supported infrastructure.

- 2. There is established the New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing at Rutgers, The State University, to address issues of supply and demand of the nursing workforce, including education, recruitment, retention and utilization of adequately prepared nursing personnel. The center shall be administered by an Executive Director under the direction of the New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing board established pursuant to this act.
- The primary goals of the center shall be to:
- a. develop a strategic plan for the continuing development of an

- adequate nursing workforce, in number and in education and training,
  to meet the needs of New Jersey residents by:
- 3 (1) collecting and analyzing information about and maintaining a 4 database of the current and projected supply and demand of the 5 nursing workforce, including home health aides, nursing assistants, 6 unlicensed assistive personnel, registered nurses, practical nurses, 7 advanced practice nurses and doctorally prepared faculty; and
  - (2) determining priorities to be addressed from the plan;

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- b. continue the collaborative approach originating from New Jersey
   Colleagues in Caring by convening representative groups of health
   care stakeholders to:
- 12 (1) review and comment on the data analysis conducted by the 13 center;
  - (2) recommend systemic changes in the State's health care system, including strategies for the implementation of the changes; and
- 16 (3) disseminate the results of the reviews and recommendations to 17 the Legislature, health care stakeholders and consumers;
  - c. acknowledge the valued contribution of the nursing work force to the health of the State by:
    - (1) promoting positive image-building efforts in nursing;
  - (2) supporting existing mechanisms for rewarding outstanding nurses; and
  - (3) reporting with evidence-based data the relationship of nursing care to the positive outcomes of the health of consumers;
  - d. provide consultation, technical assistance and information related to nursing resources within and outside of the State and serve as a clearinghouse for data related to nursing resources;
  - e. foster collaboration among members of the health care community to achieve policy consensus, promote diversity and enhance the knowledge of nurses and others in health policy and health services research; and
  - f. seek competitive funding to support specific research endeavors or model programs to enhance the resources available in supporting innovative projects.
  - 3. The New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing shall be governed by a 16-member board. A majority of the members first appointed to the board shall include nurse representatives from among the members of the New Jersey Colleagues in Caring Collaborative.
    - a. The members shall be appointed as follows:
- (1) two members appointed by the President of the Senate who include: one representative of acute care facilities recommended by the New Jersey Hospital Association; and one representative of long-term care facilities recommended by the New Jersey Association of Health Care Facilities; and two members appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate who include: one registered professional nurse

- recommended by the New Jersey State Nurses Association; and one representative of home health care agencies recommended by the Home Health Assembly of New Jersey;
- 4 (2) two members appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly who include: one registered professional nurse 5 6 recommended by the New Jersey State Nurses Association; and one 7 registered professional nurse recommended by the Organization of 8 Nurse Executives - New Jersey; and two members appointed by the 9 Minority Leader of the General Assembly who include: one 10 representative of acute care facilities recommended by the University Health System of New Jersey; and one licensed practical nurse 11 12 recommended by the Licensed Practical Nurse Association of New

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43 44 Jersey; and

- 14 (3) eight members appointed by the Governor who include: one 15 registered professional nurse recommended by the New Jersey State 16 Nurses Association; one registered professional nurse recommended 17 by the New Jersey League for Nursing; two consumers of health care; 18 one representative of baccalaureate and higher degree university 19 nursing programs recommended by the Council of Baccalaureate and 20 Higher Degree Programs; one representative of associate degree 21 nursing programs recommended by the Council of Associate Degree 22 programs; one representative of diploma nursing programs 23 recommended by the Association of Diploma Schools of Professional 24 Nursing; and one representative of practical nursing programs 25 recommended by the Licensed Practical Nurses Education Council.
  - b. The term of office of each member shall be two years; except that, of the members first appointed, two members appointed by the Senate President shall serve for a term of one year and two for a term of two years; two members appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly shall serve for a term of one year and two for a term of two years; and four members appointed by the Governor shall serve for a term of one year and four for a term of two years.
  - A member shall hold office for the term of his appointment and until his successor has been appointed and qualified. All vacancies shall be filled for the balance of the unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment. A member of the board is eligible for reappointment, but no member shall serve for more than two consecutive terms.
  - c. The board shall meet at least quarterly and shall meet as soon as practical following the appointment of its members to choose, from among the members and by a majority vote of the members, a chairperson and such other officers as it deems appropriate. The chairperson and other officers shall serve in their elected office for a term of two years and may not succeed themselves in office.
- d. Members shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for the reasonable travel and other out-of-pocket expenses

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1	incurred in the performance of their duties in a manner consistent with
2	the policies and procedures of Rutgers, The State University.
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4	4. The board shall:
5	a. determine global policies for the center;
6	b. implement the primary goals of the center as established in this
7	act;
8	c. appoint a multidisciplinary advisory council to provide input and
9	advice on policy matters. The advisory council shall include
10	representatives from all of the organizations represented in the
11	collaborative of New Jersey Colleagues in Caring;
12	d. appoint a full-time executive director who shall serve at the
13	pleasure of the board and shall be a person qualified by training and
14	experience to perform the duties of the office. The board shall
15	authorize the executive director to employ such other staff as the
16	executive director deems necessary and within the limits of funds
17	available to the center. All policies and procedures concerning the
18	hiring of center employees shall be the same as and consistent with the
19	applicable policies and procedures of Rutgers, The State University;
20	e. apply for and accept grants of money available for carrying out
21	the policies and activities of the center from the federal government,
22	and accept gifts, grants and bequests of funds from individuals,
23	foundations, corporations, governmental agencies and other
24	organizations and institutions to carry out the purposes of this act; and
25	f. submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature one year
26	after the center is established, and every two years thereafter, on its
27	activities and findings. The report may include such recommendations
28	for legislative action as the board deems appropriate. The board shall
29	make its annual report available to members of the public, upon
30	request.
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32	5. There is appropriated \$1,200,000 from the General Fund to the
33	Department of State to establish the New Jersey Collaborative Center
34	for Nursing at Rutgers, The State University, in accordance with the
35	provisions of this act.
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37	6. This act shall take effect immediately.
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40	STATEMENT
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42	This bill establishes the New Jersey Collaborating Center for
43	Nursing at Rutgers, The State University to address issues of supply

and demand of the nursing workforce, including education,
 recruitment, retention and utilization of adequately prepared nursing
 personnel. The center shall be administered by an Executive Director

- 1 under the direction of the New Jersey Collaborating Center for
- 2 Nursing board established pursuant to this bill.
- The primary goals of the center shall be to:
- 4 C develop a strategic plan for the continuing development of an
- 5 adequate nursing workforce, in number and in education and
- 6 training, to meet the needs of New Jersey residents by:
- 7 -- collecting and analyzing information about and maintaining a
- 8 database of the current and projected supply and demand of the
- 9 nursing workforce, including home health aides, nursing assistants,
- unlicensed assistive personnel, registered nurses, practical nurses,
- advanced practice nurses and doctorally prepared faculty; and
- 12 -- determining priorities to be addressed from the plan;
- 13 C continue the collaborative approach originating from New Jersey
- 14 Colleagues in Caring (established in New Jersey through a Robert
- Wood Johnson Foundation grant) by convening representative
- 16 groups of health care stakeholders to:
- 17 -- review and comment on the data analysis conducted by the
- 18 center;
- 19 -- recommend systemic changes in the State's health care system,
- 20 including strategies for the implementation of the changes; and
- 21 -- disseminate the results of the reviews and recommendations to
- 22 the Legislature, health care stakeholders and consumers;
- 23 C acknowledge the valued contribution of the nursing work force to
- the health of the State by:
- 25 -- promoting positive image-building efforts in nursing;
- 26 -- supporting existing mechanisms for rewarding outstanding
- 27 nurses; and
- 28 -- reporting with evidence-based data the relationship of nursing
- care to the positive outcomes of the health of consumers;
- 30 C provide consultation, technical assistance and information related
- 31 to nursing resources within and outside of the State and serve as a
- 32 clearinghouse for data related to nursing resources;
- 33 C foster collaboration among members of the health care community
- to achieve policy consensus, promote diversity and enhance the
- knowledge of nurses and others in health policy and health services
- 36 research; and
- 37 C seek competitive funding to support specific research endeavors or
- model programs to enhance the resources available in supporting
- innovative projects.
- 40 Under the provisions of the bill, the center shall be governed by a
- 41 16-member board. A majority of the members first appointed to the
- 42 board shall include nurse representatives from among the members of
- 43 the New Jersey Colleagues in Caring Collaborative.
- The members shall be appointed as follows:
- -- two members appointed by the President of the Senate who
- 46 include: one representative of acute care facilities recommended by the

- 1 New Jersey Hospital Association; and one representative of long-term
- 2 care facilities recommended by the New Jersey Association of Health
- 3 Care Facilities; and two members appointed by the Minority Leader
- 4 of the Senate who include: one registered professional nurse
- 5 recommended by the New Jersey State Nurses Association; and one
- 6 representative of home health care agencies recommended by the
- 7 Home Health Assembly of New Jersey;
- 8 -- two members appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly
- 9 who include: one registered professional nurse recommended by the
- 10 New Jersey State Nurses Association; and one registered professional
- 11 nurse recommended by the Organization of Nurse Executives New
- 12 Jersey; and two members appointed by the Minority Leader of the
- 13 General Assembly who include one representative of acute care
- 14 facilities recommended by the University Health System of New
- 15 Jersey; and one licensed practical nurse recommended by the Licensed
- 16 Practical Nurse Association of New Jersey; and
- 17 -- eight members appointed by the Governor who include: one
- 18 registered professional nurse recommended by the New Jersey State
- 19 Nurses Association; one registered professional nurse recommended
- 20 by the New Jersey League for Nursing; two consumers of health care;
- 21 one representative of baccalaureate and higher degree university
- 22 nursing programs recommended by the Council of Baccalaureate and
- 23 Higher Degree Programs; one representative of associate degree
- 24 nursing programs recommended by the Council of Associate Degree
- 25 programs; one representative of diploma nursing programs
- 26 recommended by the Association of Diploma Schools of Professional
- 27 Nursing; and one representative of practical nursing programs
- 28 recommended by the Licensed Practical Nurses Education Council.
- The duties of the board are to:
- 30 -- determine global policies for the center;
- -- implement the primary goals of the center as established in thisbill;
- -- appoint a multidisciplinary advisory council to provide input and
- 34 advice on policy matters, which shall include representatives from all
- 35 of the organizations represented in the collaborative of New Jersey
- 36 Colleagues in Caring;
- 37 -- appoint a full-time executive director who shall serve at the
- 38 pleasure of the board and shall be a person qualified by training and
- 39 experience to perform the duties of the office;
- 40 -- apply for and accept grants of money available for carrying out
- 41 the policies and activities of the center from the federal government,
- 42 and accept gifts, grants and bequests of funds from individuals,
- 43 foundations, corporations, governmental agencies and other
- organizations and institutions to carry out the purposes of this bill; and
- -- report to the Governor and the Legislature one year after the
- 46 center is established, and every two years thereafter, on its activities

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- 1 and findings.
- Finally, the bill appropriates \$1,200,000 from the General Fund to
- 3 establish the New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing. These
- 4 funds will be used as start-up funds for the center to purchase
- 5 necessary equipment and supplies, and to cover operating costs for
- 6 the first year.

#### ASSEMBLY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

#### STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint] **SENATE, No. 495** 

with committee amendments

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 3, 2002

The Assembly Health and Human Services Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 495 (1R).

As amended by the committee, this bill establishes the New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, to address issues of supply and demand of the nursing workforce, including education, recruitment, retention and utilization of adequately prepared nursing personnel. The center is to be administered by an executive director under the direction of the New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing board established pursuant to the bill.

The primary goals of the center would be to:

- C develop a strategic plan for the continuing development of an adequate nursing workforce, in number and in education and training, to meet the needs of New Jersey residents by:
  - -- collecting and analyzing information about and maintaining a database of the current and projected supply and demand of the nursing workforce, including home health aides, nursing assistants, unlicensed assistive personnel, registered nurses, practical nurses, advanced practice nurses and doctorally prepared faculty; and
  - -- determining priorities to be addressed from the plan;
- Continue the collaborative approach originating from the New Jersey Colleagues in Caring collaborative (established in New Jersey through a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant) by convening representative groups of health care stakeholders to:
  - -- review and comment on the data analysis conducted by the center:
  - -- recommend systemic changes in the State's health care system, including strategies for the implementation of the changes; and
  - -- disseminate the results of the reviews and recommendations to the Legislature, health care stakeholders and consumers;
- C acknowledge the valued contribution of the nursing work force to the health of the State by:
  - -- promoting positive image-building efforts in nursing;

- -- supporting existing mechanisms for rewarding outstanding nurses; and
- -- reporting with evidence-based data the relationship of nursing care to the positive outcomes of the health of consumers;
- C provide consultation, technical assistance and information related to nursing resources within and outside of the State and serve as a clearinghouse for data related to nursing resources;
- C foster collaboration among members of the health care community to achieve policy consensus, promote diversity and enhance the knowledge of nurses and others in health policy and health services research; and
- c seek competitive funding to support specific research endeavors or model programs to enhance the resources available in supporting innovative projects.

Under the provisions of the bill, the center would be governed by a 17-member board. A majority of the members first appointed to the board are to include nurse representatives from among the members of the New Jersey Colleagues in Caring collaborative.

The members are to be appointed as follows:

- -- four members appointed by the President of the Senate who include: one representative of acute care facilities recommended by the New Jersey Hospital Association; one representative of long-term care facilities recommended by the Health Care Association of New Jersey; one registered professional nurse recommended by the New Jersey State Nurses Association; and one representative of home health care agencies recommended by the Home Health Assembly of New Jersey;
- -- four members appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly who include: one registered professional nurse recommended by the New Jersey State Nurses Association; one registered professional nurse recommended by the Organization of Nurse Executives New Jersey; one representative of acute care facilities recommended by the New Jersey Council of Teaching Hospitals; and one licensed practical nurse recommended by the Licensed Practical Nurse Association of New Jersey; and
- -- nine members appointed by the Governor who include: one registered professional nurse recommended by the New Jersey State Nurses Association; one registered professional nurse recommended by the New Jersey League for Nursing; one registered professional nurse recommended by the Health Professionals and Allied Employees, AFT/AFL-CIO; two consumers of health care; one representative of baccalaureate and higher degree university nursing programs recommended by the Council of Baccalaureate and Higher Degree Programs; one representative of associate degree nursing programs recommended by the Council of Associate Degree programs; one representative of diploma nursing programs recommended by the Association of Diploma Schools of Professional Nursing; and one representative of practical nursing programs recommended by the Licensed Practical Nurses Education Council.

The duties of the board are to:

- -- determine global policies for the center;
- -- implement the primary goals of the center as established in this bill;
- -- appoint a multidisciplinary advisory council to provide input and advice on policy matters, which would include representatives from all of the organizations represented in the New Jersey Colleagues in Caring collaborative;
- -- appoint a full-time executive director who is to serve at the pleasure of the board and be qualified by training and experience to perform the duties of the office;
- -- apply for and accept grants of money available for carrying out the policies and activities of the center from the federal government, and accept gifts, grants and bequests of funds from individuals, foundations, corporations, governmental agencies and other organizations and institutions to carry out the purposes of this bill; and
- -- report to the Governor and the Legislature one year after the center is established, and every two years thereafter, on its activities and findings.

Finally, the bill provides that until such time as the members of the board are appointed, the New Jersey Colleagues in Caring collaborative is to be responsible for establishing the center and implementing the purposes of the bill.

As reported by the committee, this bill is identical to the Assembly Committee Substitute for Assembly Bill Nos. 2727 and 794 (Ahearn/Weinberg/Blee/DeCroce), which the committee also reported on this date.

#### **COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS**

The committee amendments to the bill increase, from 16 to 17, the membership of the governing board of the New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing by adding, as a gubernatorial appointee, a registered professional nurse recommended by the Health Professionals and Allied Employees, AFT/AFL-CIO.

#### SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR CITIZENS COMMITTEE

#### STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 495

with committee amendments

### STATE OF NEW JERSEY

**DATED: JUNE 13, 2002** 

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 495.

As amended by committee, this bill establishes the New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey to address issues of supply and demand of the nursing workforce, including education, recruitment, retention and utilization of adequately prepared nursing personnel. The center shall be administered by an executive director under the direction of the New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing board established pursuant to this bill.

The primary goals of the center shall be to:

- C develop a strategic plan for the continuing development of an adequate nursing workforce, in number and in education and training, to meet the needs of New Jersey residents by:
  - -- collecting and analyzing information about and maintaining a database of the current and projected supply and demand of the nursing workforce, including home health aides, nursing assistants, unlicensed assistive personnel, registered nurses, practical nurses, advanced practice nurses and doctorally prepared faculty; and
  - -- determining priorities to be addressed from the plan;
- Continue the collaborative approach originating from the New Jersey Colleagues in Caring collaborative (established in New Jersey through a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant) by convening representative groups of health care stakeholders to:
  - -- review and comment on the data analysis conducted by the center:
  - -- recommend systemic changes in the State's health care system, including strategies for the implementation of the changes; and
  - -- disseminate the results of the reviews and recommendations to the Legislature, health care stakeholders and consumers;
- acknowledge the valued contribution of the nursing work force to the health of the State by:

- -- promoting positive image-building efforts in nursing;
- -- supporting existing mechanisms for rewarding outstanding nurses; and
- -- reporting with evidence-based data the relationship of nursing care to the positive outcomes of the health of consumers;
- C provide consultation, technical assistance and information related to nursing resources within and outside of the State and serve as a clearinghouse for data related to nursing resources;
- C foster collaboration among members of the health care community to achieve policy consensus, promote diversity and enhance the knowledge of nurses and others in health policy and health services research; and
- c seek competitive funding to support specific research endeavors or model programs to enhance the resources available in supporting innovative projects.

Under the provisions of the bill, the center shall be governed by a 16-member board. A majority of the members first appointed to the board shall include nurse representatives from among the members of the New Jersey Colleagues in Caring collaborative.

The members shall be appointed as follows:

- -- four members appointed by the President of the Senate who include: one representative of acute care facilities recommended by the New Jersey Hospital Association; one representative of long-term care facilities recommended by the Health Care Association of New Jersey; one registered professional nurse recommended by the New Jersey State Nurses Association; and one representative of home health care agencies recommended by the Home Health Assembly of New Jersey;
- -- four members appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly who include: one registered professional nurse recommended by the New Jersey State Nurses Association; one registered professional nurse recommended by the Organization of Nurse Executives New Jersey; one representative of acute care facilities recommended by the New Jersey Council of Teaching Hospitals; and one licensed practical nurse recommended by the Licensed Practical Nurse Association of New Jersey; and
- -- eight members appointed by the Governor who include: one registered professional nurse recommended by the New Jersey State Nurses Association; one registered professional nurse recommended by the New Jersey League for Nursing; two consumers of health care; one representative of baccalaureate and higher degree university nursing programs recommended by the Council of Baccalaureate and Higher Degree Programs; one representative of associate degree nursing programs recommended by the Council of Associate Degree programs; one representative of diploma nursing programs recommended by the Association of Diploma Schools of Professional Nursing; and one representative of practical nursing programs recommended by the Licensed Practical Nurses Education Council.

The duties of the board are to:

- -- determine global policies for the center;
- -- implement the primary goals of the center as established in this bill;
- -- appoint a multidisciplinary advisory council to provide input and advice on policy matters, which shall include representatives from all of the organizations represented in the New Jersey Colleagues in Caring collaborative;
- -- appoint a full-time executive director who shall serve at the pleasure of the board and shall be a person qualified by training and experience to perform the duties of the office;
- -- apply for and accept grants of money available for carrying out the policies and activities of the center from the federal government, and accept gifts, grants and bequests of funds from individuals, foundations, corporations, governmental agencies and other organizations and institutions to carry out the purposes of this bill; and
- -- report to the Governor and the Legislature one year after the center is established, and every two years thereafter, on its activities and findings.

Finally, the bill provides that until such time as the members of the board are appointed, the New Jersey Colleagues in Caring collaborative shall be responsible for establishing the center and implementing the purposes of the bill.

Committee amendments: The committee amended the bill to:

- delete the \$1. 2 million appropriation;
- provide that the New Jersey Colleagues in Caring collaborative shall be responsible for establishing the center and implementing the purposes of the bill until such time as the members of the board are appointed; and
- provide that the Senate President and Speaker of the General Assembly, respectively, shall each appoint four members of the board, rather than specify that they would each appoint two members and the minority leaders in each house would appoint the other two members.

Other committee amendments are technical and update the names of organizations that will be represented on the board.

As amended, this bill is similar to Assembly Bill No. 794 (Blee/DeCroce), which is pending before the Assembly Health and Human Services Committee.

This bill was prefiled for introduction in the 2002-2003 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review which has been performed.

#### STATEMENT TO

# [Second Reprint] **SENATE, No. 495**

with Assembly Floor Amendments (Proposed By Assemblyman AHEARN)

ADOPTED: OCTOBER 17, 2002

These amendments substitute a health care facility staff nurse providing direct patient care, who is recommended by an organization that represents such nurses, for a registered professional nurse recommended by the Health Professionals and Allied Employees, AFT/AFL-CIO, as a member of the governing board of the New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing.

#### LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[Third Reprint]

## SENATE, No. 495 STATE OF NEW JERSEY 210th LEGISLATURE

DATED: DECEMBER 11, 2002

#### **SUMMARY**

Synopsis: Establishes New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing

Type of Impact: Potential General Fund expenditure increase

Agencies Affected: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

#### Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	Annual Range
State Cost	\$0 to \$125,000

- ! Senate Bill No. 495 (3R) of 2002 establishes the New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing at Rutgers University, to continue the work begun by the New Jersey Colleagues in Caring collaborative established through a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant.
- ! The actual cost of the bill will depend upon the level of funding received by Rutgers University from other outside sources such as grants. If the center receives grant monies sufficient to cover the costs associated with the bill, the State cost will be \$0. If the center does not receive grant monies to implement the requirements of the bill, the State cost could equal \$125,000.
- ! The costs of the center would either be absorbed by the existing Rutgers budget, or Rutgers would require additional State aid of \$125,000.

#### **BILL DESCRIPTION**

Senate Bill No. 495 (3R) of 2002 establishes the New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, to address issues of supply and demand of the nursing workforce, including education, recruitment, retention and utilization of adequately prepared nursing personnel. The goals of the center include developing a plan to ensure the State has an adequate nursing workforce, tracking the supply and demand of nurses in the State, providing a forum for the discussion of the state of health care in New Jersey, serving as a clearinghouse for information on nursing resources, and seeking outside competitive funding for research and programs.

The center is to be administered by an executive director under the direction of a 17 member



New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing board established pursuant to the bill. A majority of the members first appointed to the board are to include nurse representatives from among the members of the New Jersey Colleagues in Caring collaborative.

The duties of the board are to:

- < determine global policies for the center;
- < implement the primary goals of the center as established in this bill;
- < appoint a multidisciplinary advisory council to provide input and advice on policy matters:
- < apply for and accept grants and gifts to carry out the purposes of this bill; and
- report to the Governor and the Legislature one year after the center is established, and every two years thereafter, on its activities and findings.

Finally, the bill provides that until such time as the members of the board are appointed, the New Jersey Colleagues in Caring collaborative is to be responsible for establishing the center and implementing the purposes of the bill.

#### FISCAL ANALYSIS

#### **EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

None received

#### OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

Potential costs to the State associated with the implementation of this bill will vary depending upon the availability of funds from other sources. The bill authorizes the New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing to apply for and accept grants and gifts. Representatives from the New Jersey Colleagues in Caring collaborative (the precursor to the center, funded from grant monies, that is responsible for implementing the provisions of the bill until the board has been appointed) have indicated that they have applied to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for grant monies to fund the center. They expect a funding level of approximately \$200,000-\$300,000 annually. If these monies are received, it is likely that additional State funding will not be needed to implement the provisions of the bill. However, if the center does not receive sufficient grant monies, additional State monies may be needed to fulfill the requirements of the bill.

Because the New Jersey Colleagues in Caring collaborative will use its existing resources to begin implementing the provisions of the bill, the Office of Legislative Services (OLS) does not believe there will be significant start-up costs associated with establishment of the center. The primary costs associated with the bill are staff and facility space. The bill specifies that the board appoint an executive director, who will be responsible for implementing the bill's provisions and stipulates that other staff may be hired "within the limits of funds available to the center." Therefore, the OLS assumes that there is no requirement to fund additional staff beyond the executive director, but that additional staff may be hired if the center receives funding sufficient to provide for their salaries and related expenditures.

Because the requirements of the bill are fairly broad, the staff workload will likely vary based upon the available resources. Many of the requirements continue the work currently performed by the New Jersey Colleagues in Caring collaborative. The collaborative has an annual budget of approximately \$125,000 and employs a project director and a part-time clerical worker. The OLS assumes that, at a minimum, this same level of staffing would be required for the center.

In addition, because the current project director is a member of the Rutgers faculty, Rutgers University supplies office space for the collaborative. If the center is not able to occupy the space used by the collaborative beyond the current fiscal year, there may be future costs associated with renting space for the center.

The bill specifies that the center is governed by a 17-member board. Although board members serve without compensation, there may be minimal costs associated with reimbursement for travel, which is permitted by the bill.

Therefore, the OLS estimates that, based upon the current costs of the collaborative, the center would require, at a minimum, \$125,000 annually to fulfill the requirements of the bill. However, as discussed above, because the center may receive grant and other outside funding, the center may not require State funding. If no grant monies are received, Rutgers University would have to contribute \$125,000 annually either by absorbing the costs within its current budget, or by requesting additional State aid of \$125,000.

Section: Education

Analyst: Beth Kohler

Assistant Fiscal Analyst

Approved: Alan R. Kooney

Legislative Budget and Finance Officer

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67.

## ASSEMBLY, No. 2727

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY 210th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 19, 2002

Sponsored by:
Assemblyman MATT AHEARN
District 38 (Bergen)
Assemblywoman LORETTA WEINBERG
District 37 (Bergen)

#### **SYNOPSIS**

Establishes New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing.

#### **CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**AN ACT** establishing the New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing and supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

**BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

- 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:
- a. New Jersey Colleagues in Caring Collaborative was established in 1996 through a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant to assist nursing schools, hospitals and other nursing service institutions to initiate concerted workforce development systems within the State;
- b. Under the terms of the grant, New Jersey Colleagues in Caring is responsible for: conducting a comprehensive assessment of the current and projected nursing care needs in the State; developing a dependable system for estimating future needs; analyzing the capacity of the State's nursing workforce to meet these needs and the area's educational infrastructure to produce the numbers and types of nursing professionals required; developing a Statewide nursing workforce consortium among schools, providers and other relevant institutions to plan and implement State models that enhance educational and career mobility for nurses; and establishing a formal mechanism to keep the consortium in place over the long term so that monitoring of nursing care needs and the building of a workforce with corresponding strengths become ongoing components of the State's health care structure;
  - c. Establishment of an independent nursing center, which will function as a future-oriented research and development organization that will develop and disseminate objective information and provide an ongoing strategy for the allocation of State resources directed toward the nursing work force, will assure the best possible nursing care for the residents of the State; and
  - d. Therefore, it is appropriate to establish the New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing to provide an investment in nursing by ensuring that the strategic work begun by New Jersey Colleagues in Caring continues under a State-supported infrastructure.

- 2. There is established the New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, to address issues of supply and demand of the nursing workforce, including education, recruitment, retention and utilization of adequately prepared nursing personnel. The center shall be administered by an executive director under the direction of the New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing board established pursuant to this act.
- The primary goals of the center shall be to:
- a. develop a strategic plan for the continuing development of an adequate nursing workforce, in number and in education and training,

1 to meet the needs of New Jersey residents by:

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- 2 (1) collecting and analyzing information about and maintaining a 3 database of the current and projected supply and demand of the 4 nursing workforce, including home health aides, nursing assistants, 5 unlicensed assistive personnel, registered nurses, practical nurses, 6 advanced practice nurses and doctorally prepared faculty; and
  - (2) determining priorities to be addressed from the plan;
- b. continue the collaborative approach originating from New Jersey
  Colleagues in Caring by convening representative groups of health
  care stakeholders to:
- 11 (1) review and comment on the data analysis conducted by the 12 center;
  - (2) recommend systemic changes in the State's health care system, including strategies for the implementation of the changes; and
  - (3) disseminate the results of the reviews and recommendations to the Legislature, health care stakeholders and consumers;
  - c. acknowledge the valued contribution of the nursing work force to the health of the State by:
    - (1) promoting positive image-building efforts in nursing;
  - (2) supporting existing mechanisms for rewarding outstanding nurses; and
  - (3) reporting with evidence-based data the relationship of nursing care to the positive outcomes of the health of consumers;
  - d. provide consultation, technical assistance and information related to nursing resources within and outside of the State and serve as a clearinghouse for data related to nursing resources;
  - e. foster collaboration among members of the health care community to achieve policy consensus, promote diversity and enhance the knowledge of nurses and others in health policy and health services research; and
  - f. seek competitive funding to support specific research endeavors or model programs to enhance the resources available in supporting innovative projects.

3. The New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing shall be governed by a 16-member board. A majority of the members first appointed to the board shall include nurse representatives from among the members of the New Jersey Colleagues in Caring collaborative.

- a. The members shall be appointed as follows:
- (1) four members appointed by the President of the Senate who include: one representative of acute care facilities recommended by the New Jersey Hospital Association; one representative of long-term care facilities recommended by the Health Care Association of New Jersey; one registered professional nurse recommended by the New Jersey State Nurses Association; and one representative of home health care agencies recommended by the Home Health Assembly of New Jersey;

- 1 (2) four members appointed by the Speaker of the General 2 Assembly who include: one registered professional nurse
- 3 recommended by the New Jersey State Nurses Association; one
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- registered professional nurse recommended by the Organization of 5
- Nurse Executives New Jersey; one representative of acute care 6 facilities recommended by the New Jersey Council of Teaching
- 7 Hospitals; and one licensed practical nurse recommended by the
- 8 Licensed Practical Nurse Association of New Jersey; and
- 9 (3) eight members appointed by the Governor who include: one 10 registered professional nurse recommended by the New Jersey State
- 11 Nurses Association; one registered professional nurse recommended
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- by the New Jersey League for Nursing; two consumers of health care; 13
- one representative of baccalaureate and higher degree university 14 nursing programs recommended by the Council of Baccalaureate and
- Higher Degree Programs; one representative of associate degree 15
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- nursing programs recommended by the Council of Associate Degree
- 17 programs; one representative of diploma nursing programs 18
  - recommended by the Association of Diploma Schools of Professional
- 19 Nursing; and one representative of practical nursing programs
- 20 recommended by the Licensed Practical Nurses Education Council.
- 21 b. The term of office of each member shall be two years; except
- that, of the members first appointed, two members appointed by the 22
- 23 Senate President shall serve for a term of one year and two for a term
- 24 of two years; two members appointed by the Speaker of the General
- 25 Assembly shall serve for a term of one year and two for a term of two
- 26 years; and four members appointed by the Governor shall serve for a
- 27 term of one year and four for a term of two years.
  - A member shall hold office for the term of his appointment and until
- 29 his successor has been appointed and qualified. All vacancies shall be
- 30 filled for the balance of the unexpired term in the same manner as the
- 31 original appointment. A member of the board is eligible for
- 32 reappointment, but no member shall serve for more than two
- 33 consecutive terms.

- 34 c. The board shall meet at least quarterly and shall meet as soon as
- practical following the appointment of its members to choose, from 35
- 36 among the members and by a majority vote of the members, a
- 37 chairperson and such other officers as it deems appropriate. The
- 38 chairperson and other officers shall serve in their elected office for a
- 39 term of two years and may not succeed themselves in office.
- 40 d. Members shall serve without compensation but shall be 41 reimbursed for the reasonable travel and other out-of-pocket expenses
- 42 incurred in the performance of their duties in a manner consistent with
- 43 the policies and procedures of Rutgers, The State University of New
- 44 Jersey.

#### A2727 AHEARN, WEINBERG

1	4. The board shall:
2	a. determine global policies for the center;
3	b. implement the primary goals of the center as established in this
4	act;
5	c. appoint a multidisciplinary advisory council to provide input and
6	advice on policy matters. The advisory council shall include
7	representatives from all of the organizations represented in the
8	collaborative of New Jersey Colleagues in Caring;
9	d. appoint a full-time executive director who shall serve at the
10	pleasure of the board and shall be a person qualified by training and
11	experience to perform the duties of the office. The board shall
12	authorize the executive director to employ such other staff as the
13	executive director deems necessary and within the limits of funds
14	available to the center. All policies and procedures concerning the
15	hiring of center employees shall be the same as and consistent with the
16	applicable policies and procedures of Rutgers, The State University of
17	New Jersey;
18	e. apply for and accept grants of money available for carrying out
19	the policies and activities of the center from the federal government,
20	and accept gifts, grants and bequests of funds from individuals,
21	foundations, corporations, governmental agencies and other
22	organizations and institutions to carry out the purposes of this act; and
23	f. submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature one year
24	after the center is established, and every two years thereafter, on its
25	activities and findings. The report may include such recommendations
26	for legislative action as the board deems appropriate. The board shall
27	make its annual report available to members of the public, upon
28	request.
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30	5. Until such time as the members of the board are appointed, the
31	New Jersey Colleagues in Caring collaborative shall be responsible for
32	establishing the center and implementing the purposes of this act.
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34	6. This act shall take effect immediately.
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37	STATEMENT
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39	This bill establishes the New Jersey Collaborating Center for
40	Nursing at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey to address

- issues of supply and demand of the nursing workforce, including 42 education, recruitment, retention and utilization of adequately
- 43
- prepared nursing personnel. The center shall be administered by an 44 executive director under the direction of the New Jersey
- 45 Collaborating Center for Nursing board established pursuant to this
- 46 bill.

- 1 The primary goals of the center shall be to:
- 2 C develop a strategic plan for the continuing development of an
- 3 adequate nursing workforce, in number and in education and
- 4 training, to meet the needs of New Jersey residents by:
- 5 -- collecting and analyzing information about and maintaining a
- 6 database of the current and projected supply and demand of the
- 7 nursing workforce, including home health aides, nursing
- 8 assistants, unlicensed assistive personnel, registered nurses,
- 9 practical nurses, advanced practice nurses and doctorally
- 10 prepared faculty; and
- 11 -- determining priorities to be addressed from the plan;
- 12 C continue the collaborative approach originating from the New
- 13 Jersey Colleagues in Caring collaborative (established in New
- 14 Jersey through a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant) by
- 15 convening representative groups of health care stakeholders to:
- 16 -- review and comment on the data analysis conducted by the
- 17 center;
- 18 -- recommend systemic changes in the State's health care system,
- including strategies for the implementation of the changes; and
- 20 -- disseminate the results of the reviews and recommendations to
- 21 the Legislature, health care stakeholders and consumers;
- 22 C acknowledge the valued contribution of the nursing work force
- 23 to the health of the State by:
- 24 -- promoting positive image-building efforts in nursing;
- 25 -- supporting existing mechanisms for rewarding outstanding
- 26 nurses; and
- 27 -- reporting with evidence-based data the relationship of nursing
- care to the positive outcomes of the health of consumers;
- 29 C provide consultation, technical assistance and information related
- 30 to nursing resources within and outside of the State and serve as
- a clearinghouse for data related to nursing resources;
- 32 C foster collaboration among members of the health care
- community to achieve policy consensus, promote diversity and
- 34 enhance the knowledge of nurses and others in health policy and
- 35 health services research; and
- 36 C seek competitive funding to support specific research endeavors
- or model programs to enhance the resources available in
- 38 supporting innovative projects.
- 39 Under the provisions of the bill, the center shall be governed by a
- 40 16-member board. A majority of the members first appointed to the
- 41 board shall include nurse representatives from among the members
- 42 of the New Jersey Colleagues in Caring collaborative.
- The members shall be appointed as follows:
- -- four members appointed by the President of the Senate who
- 45 include: one representative of acute care facilities recommended by
- 46 the New Jersey Hospital Association; one representative of long-

- 1 term care facilities recommended by the Health Care Association of
- 2 New Jersey; one registered professional nurse recommended by the
- 3 New Jersey State Nurses Association; and one representative of
- 4 home health care agencies recommended by the Home Health
- 5 Assembly of New Jersey;
- 6 -- four members appointed by the Speaker of the General
- 7 Assembly who include: one registered professional nurse
- 8 recommended by the New Jersey State Nurses Association; one
- 9 registered professional nurse recommended by the Organization of
- 10 Nurse Executives New Jersey; one representative of acute care
- 11 facilities recommended by the New Jersey Council of Teaching
- 12 Hospitals; and one licensed practical nurse recommended by the
- 13 Licensed Practical Nurse Association of New Jersey; and
- 14 -- eight members appointed by the Governor who include: one
- 15 registered professional nurse recommended by the New Jersey State
- 16 Nurses Association; one registered professional nurse recommended
- 17 by the New Jersey League for Nursing; two consumers of health
- 18 care; one representative of baccalaureate and higher degree
- 19 university nursing programs recommended by the Council of
- 20 Baccalaureate and Higher Degree Programs; one representative of
- 21 associate degree nursing programs recommended by the Council of
- 22 Associate Degree programs; one representative of diploma nursing
- 23 programs recommended by the Association of Diploma Schools of
- 24 Professional Nursing; and one representative of practical nursing
- 25 programs recommended by the Licensed Practical Nurses Education
- 26 Council.
- The duties of the board are to:
- 28 -- determine global policies for the center;
- -- implement the primary goals of the center as established in thisbill;
- 31 -- appoint a multidisciplinary advisory council to provide input
- 32 and advice on policy matters, which shall include representatives
- 33 from all of the organizations represented in the New Jersey
- 34 Colleagues in Caring collaborative;
- -- appoint a full-time executive director who shall serve at the
   pleasure of the board and shall be a person qualified by training and
- 37 experience to perform the duties of the office;
- 38 -- apply for and accept grants of money available for carrying out
- 39 the policies and activities of the center from the federal government,
- 40 and accept gifts, grants and bequests of funds from individuals,
- 41 foundations, corporations, governmental agencies and other
- 42 organizations and institutions to carry out the purposes of this bill;
- 43 and
- -- report to the Governor and the Legislature one year after the
- 45 center is established, and every two years thereafter, on its activities
- and findings.

#### A2727 AHEARN, WEINBERG

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- 1 Finally, the bill provides that until such time as the members of
- 2 the board are appointed, the New Jersey Colleagues in Caring
- 3 collaborative shall be responsible for establishing the center and
- 4 implementing the purposes of the bill.

## ASSEMBLY, No. 794

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY 210th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2002 SESSION

Sponsored by: Assemblyman FRANCIS J. BLEE District 2 (Atlantic) Assemblyman ALEX DECROCE District 26 (Morris and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by: Assemblymen Pennacchio and D'Amato

#### **SYNOPSIS**

Establishes New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing; appropriates \$1,200,000.

#### **CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 9/10/2002)

AN ACT establishing the New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing,
 supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes and making an
 appropriation.

**BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

- 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:
- a. New Jersey Colleagues in Caring was established in 1996 through a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant to assist nursing schools, hospitals and other nursing service institutions to initiate concerted workforce development systems within the State;
- b. Under the terms of the grant, New Jersey Colleagues in Caring is responsible for: conducting a comprehensive assessment of the current and projected nursing care needs in the State; developing a dependable system for estimating future needs; analyzing the capacity of the State's nursing workforce to meet these needs and the area's educational infrastructure to produce the numbers and types of nursing professionals required; developing a Statewide nursing workforce consortium among schools, providers and other relevant institutions to plan and implement State models that enhance educational and career mobility for nurses; and establishing a formal mechanism to keep the consortium in place over the long term so that monitoring of nursing care needs and the building of a workforce with corresponding strengths become ongoing components of the State's health care structure;
  - c. Establishment of an independent nursing center, which will function as a future-oriented research and development organization that will develop and disseminate objective information and provide an ongoing strategy for the allocation of State resources directed toward the nursing work force, will assure the best possible nursing care for the residents of the State; and
  - d. Therefore, it is appropriate to establish the New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing to provide an investment in nursing by ensuring that the strategic work begun by New Jersey Colleagues in Caring continues under a State-supported infrastructure.

- 2. There is established the New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing at Rutgers, The State University, to address issues of supply and demand of the nursing workforce, including education, recruitment, retention and utilization of adequately prepared nursing personnel. The center shall be administered by an Executive Director under the direction of the New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing board established pursuant to this act.
- The primary goals of the center shall be to:
- a. develop a strategic plan for the continuing development of an

adequate nursing workforce, in number and in education and training,
to meet the needs of New Jersey residents by:

- 3 (1) collecting and analyzing information about and maintaining a 4 database of the current and projected supply and demand of the 5 nursing workforce, including home health aides, nursing assistants, 6 unlicensed assistive personnel, registered nurses, practical nurses, 7 advanced practice nurses and doctorally prepared faculty; and
  - (2) determining priorities to be addressed from the plan;

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- b. continue the collaborative approach originating from New Jersey
   Colleagues in Caring by convening representative groups of health
   care stakeholders to:
- 12 (1) review and comment on the data analysis conducted by the 13 center;
  - (2) recommend systemic changes in the State's health care system, including strategies for the implementation of the changes; and
  - (3) disseminate the results of the reviews and recommendations to the Legislature, health care stakeholders and consumers;
  - c. acknowledge the valued contribution of the nursing work force to the health of the State by:
    - (1) promoting positive image-building efforts in nursing;
  - (2) supporting existing mechanisms for rewarding outstanding nurses; and
  - (3) reporting with evidence-based data the relationship of nursing care to the positive outcomes of the health of consumers;
  - d. provide consultation, technical assistance and information related to nursing resources within and outside of the State and serve as a clearinghouse for data related to nursing resources;
  - e. foster collaboration among members of the health care community to achieve policy consensus, promote diversity and enhance the knowledge of nurses and others in health policy and health services research; and
  - f. seek competitive funding to support specific research endeavors or model programs to enhance the resources available in supporting innovative projects.
  - 3. The New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing shall be governed by a 16-member board. A majority of the members first appointed to the board shall include nurse representatives from among the members of the New Jersey Colleagues in Caring Collaborative.
    - a. The members shall be appointed as follows:
- (1) two members appointed by the President of the Senate who include: one representative of acute care facilities recommended by the New Jersey Hospital Association; and one representative of long-term care facilities recommended by the New Jersey Association of Health Care Facilities; and two members appointed by the Minority Leader of
- 46 the Senate who include: one registered professional nurse

recommended by the New Jersey State Nurses Association; and one representative of home health care agencies recommended by the Home Health Assembly of New Jersey;

- 4 (2) two members appointed by the Speaker of the General 5 Assembly who include: one registered professional nurse 6 recommended by the New Jersey State Nurses Association; and one registered professional nurse recommended by the Organization of 7 8 Nurse Executives - New Jersey; and two members appointed by the 9 Minority Leader of the General Assembly who include: one 10 representative of acute care facilities recommended by the University 11 Health System of New Jersey; and one licensed practical nurse 12 recommended by the Licensed Practical Nurse Association of New 13 Jersey; and
- 14 (3) eight members appointed by the Governor who include: one registered professional nurse recommended by the New Jersey State 15 16 Nurses Association; one registered professional nurse recommended 17 by the New Jersey League for Nursing; two consumers of health care; 18 one representative of baccalaureate and higher degree university 19 nursing programs recommended by the Council of Baccalaureate and 20 Higher Degree Programs; one representative of associate degree 21 nursing programs recommended by the Council of Associate Degree 22 Programs; one representative of diploma nursing programs 23 recommended by the Association of Diploma Schools of Professional 24 Nursing; and one representative of practical nursing programs 25 recommended by the Licensed Practical Nurses Education Council.

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b. The term of office of each member shall be two years; except that, of the members first appointed, one member appointed by the Senate President shall serve for a term of one year and one for a term of two years; one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate shall serve for a term of one year and one for a term of two years; one member appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly shall serve for a term of one year and one for a term of two years; one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the General Assembly shall serve for a term of one year and one for a term of two years; and four members appointed by the Governor shall serve for a term of one year and four for a term of two years.

A member shall hold office for the term of his appointment and until his successor has been appointed and qualified. All vacancies shall be filled for the balance of the unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment. A member of the board is eligible for reappointment, but no member shall serve for more than two consecutive terms.

c. The board shall meet at least quarterly and shall meet as soon as practical following the appointment of its members to choose, from among the members and by a majority vote of the members, a chairperson and such other officers as it deems appropriate. The

1 chairperson and other officers shall serve in their elected office for a 2 term of two years and may not succeed themselves in office.

d. Members shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for the reasonable travel and other out-of-pocket expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in a manner consistent with the policies and procedures of Rutgers, The State University.

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- 4. The board shall:
- a. determine global policies for the center;
- 10 b. implement the primary goals of the center as established in this act;
  - c. appoint a multidisciplinary advisory council to provide input and advice on policy matters. The advisory council shall include representatives from all of the organizations represented in the collaborative of New Jersey Colleagues in Caring;
  - d. appoint a full-time executive director who shall serve at the pleasure of the board and shall be a person qualified by training and experience to perform the duties of the office. The board shall authorize the executive director to employ such other staff as the executive director deems necessary and within the limits of funds available to the center. All policies and procedures concerning the hiring of center employees shall be the same as and consistent with the applicable policies and procedures of Rutgers, The State University;
  - e. apply for and accept grants of money available for carrying out the policies and activities of the center from the federal government, and accept gifts, grants and bequests of funds from individuals, foundations, corporations, governmental agencies and other organizations and institutions to carry out the purposes of this act; and
  - f. submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature one year after the center is established, and every two years thereafter, on its activities and findings. The report may include such recommendations for legislative action as the board deems appropriate. The board shall make its annual report available to members of the public, upon request.

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5. There is appropriated \$1,200,000 from the General Fund to the Department of State to establish the New Jersey Collaborative Center for Nursing at Rutgers, The State University, in accordance with the provisions of this act.

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6. This act shall take effect immediately.

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#### 43 **STATEMENT**

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45 This bill establishes the New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing at Rutgers, The State University, to address issues of supply 46

- 1 and demand of the nursing workforce, including education,
- 2 recruitment, retention and utilization of adequately prepared nursing
- 3 personnel. The center is to be administered by an Executive Director
- 4 under the direction of the New Jersey Collaborating Center for
- 5 Nursing board established pursuant to this bill.
- 6 The primary goals of the center will be to:
- 7 C develop a strategic plan for the continuing development of an
- 8 adequate nursing workforce, in number and in education and
- 9 training, to meet the needs of New Jersey residents by:
- 10 -- collecting and analyzing information about and maintaining a
- database of the current and projected supply and demand of the
- nursing workforce, including home health aides, nursing assistants,
- unlicensed assistive personnel, registered nurses, practical nurses,
- advanced practice nurses and doctorally prepared faculty; and
- 15 -- determining priorities to be addressed from the plan;
- 16 C continue the collaborative approach originating from New Jersey
- 17 Colleagues in Caring (established in New Jersey through a Robert
- Wood Johnson Foundation grant) by convening representative
- 19 groups of health care stakeholders to:
- 20 -- review and comment on the data analysis conducted by the
- 21 center
- 22 -- recommend systemic changes in the State's health care system,
- 23 including strategies for the implementation of the changes; and
- 24 -- disseminate the results of the reviews and recommendations to
- 25 the Legislature, health care stakeholders and consumers;
- 26 C acknowledge the valued contribution of the nursing work force to
- the health of the State by:
- 28 -- promoting positive image-building efforts in nursing;
- 29 -- supporting existing mechanisms for rewarding outstanding
- 30 nurses; and
- 31 -- reporting with evidence-based data the relationship of nursing
- care to the positive outcomes of the health of consumers;
- 33 C provide consultation, technical assistance and information related
- 34 to nursing resources within and outside of the State and serve as a
- 35 clearinghouse for data related to nursing resources;
- 36 C foster collaboration among members of the health care community
- 37 to achieve policy consensus, promote diversity and enhance the
- knowledge of nurses and others in health policy and health services
- 39 research; and
- 40 C seek competitive funding to support specific research endeavors or
- 41 model programs to enhance the resources available in supporting
- 42 innovative projects.
- 43 Under the provisions of the bill, the center is to be governed by a
- 44 16-member board. A majority of the members first appointed to the
- board shall include nurse representatives from among the members of
- 46 the New Jersey Colleagues in Caring Collaborative.

1 The members are to be appointed as follows:

- 2 -- two members appointed by the President of the Senate who
- 3 include: one representative of acute care facilities recommended by the
- 4 New Jersey Hospital Association; and one representative of long-term
- 5 care facilities recommended by the New Jersey Association of Health
- 6 Care Facilities; and two members appointed by the Minority Leader of
- 7 the Senate who include: one registered professional nurse
- 8 recommended by the New Jersey State Nurses Association; and one
- 9 representative of home health care agencies recommended by the
- 10 Home Health Assembly of New Jersey;
- 11 -- two members appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly
- who include: one registered professional nurse recommended by the
- 13 New Jersey State Nurses Association; and one registered professional
- 14 nurse recommended by the Organization of Nurse Executives New
- 15 Jersey; and two members appointed by the Minority Leader of the
- 16 General Assembly who include one representative of acute care
- 17 facilities recommended by the University Health System of New
- 18 Jersey; and one licensed practical nurse recommended by the Licensed
- 19 Practical Nurse Association of New Jersey; and
- 20 -- eight members appointed by the Governor who include: one
- 21 registered professional nurse recommended by the New Jersey State
- 22 Nurses Association; one registered professional nurse recommended
- 23 by the New Jersey League for Nursing; two consumers of health care;
- 24 one representative of baccalaureate and higher degree university
- 25 nursing programs recommended by the Council of Baccalaureate and
- 26 Higher Degree Programs; one representative of associate degree
- nursing programs recommended by the Council of Associate Degree
   Programs; one representative of diploma nursing programs
- recommended by the Association of Diploma Schools of Professional
- 30 Nursing; and one representative of practical nursing programs
- 31 recommended by the Licensed Practical Nurses Education Council.
- The duties of the board will be to:
- -- determine global policies for the center;
- -- implement the primary goals of the center as established in this
- 35 bill;
- 36 -- appoint a multidisciplinary advisory council to provide input and
- 37 advice on policy matters, which shall include representatives from all
- 38 of the organizations represented in the collaborative of New Jersey
- 39 Colleagues in Caring;
- -- appoint a full-time executive director, who shall serve at the pleasure of the board and be a person qualified by training and
- 42 experience to perform the duties of the office;
- -- apply for and accept grants of money available for carrying out
- 44 the policies and activities of the center from the federal government,
- 45 and accept gifts, grants and bequests of funds from individuals,
- 46 foundations, corporations, governmental agencies and other

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1	organizations and institutions to carry out the purposes of this bill; and
2	report to the Governor and the Legislature one year after the
3	center is established, and every two years thereafter, on its activities
1	and findings.
5	Finally, the bill appropriates \$1.2 million from the General Fund to
5	establish the New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing These

establish the New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing. These monies will be used as start-up funds for the center to purchase necessary equipment and supplies, and to cover operating costs for the first year.

#### ASSEMBLY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

#### STATEMENT TO

## ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR ASSEMBLY, Nos. 2727 and 794

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 3, 2002

The Assembly Health and Human Services Committee reports favorably an Assembly Committee Substitute for Assembly Bill Nos. 2727 and 794.

This committee substitute establishes the New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, to address issues of supply and demand of the nursing workforce, including education, recruitment, retention and utilization of adequately prepared nursing personnel. The center is to be administered by an executive director under the direction of the New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing board established pursuant to the substitute.

The primary goals of the center would be to:

- C develop a strategic plan for the continuing development of an adequate nursing workforce, in number and in education and training, to meet the needs of New Jersey residents by:
  - -- collecting and analyzing information about and maintaining a database of the current and projected supply and demand of the nursing workforce, including home health aides, nursing assistants, unlicensed assistive personnel, registered nurses, practical nurses, advanced practice nurses and doctorally prepared faculty; and
  - -- determining priorities to be addressed from the plan;
- Continue the collaborative approach originating from the New Jersey Colleagues in Caring collaborative (established in New Jersey through a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant) by convening representative groups of health care stakeholders to:
  - -- review and comment on the data analysis conducted by the center;
  - -- recommend systemic changes in the State's health care system, including strategies for the implementation of the changes; and
  - -- disseminate the results of the reviews and recommendations to the Legislature, health care stakeholders and consumers;
- C acknowledge the valued contribution of the nursing work force to the health of the State by:
  - -- promoting positive image-building efforts in nursing;
  - -- supporting existing mechanisms for rewarding outstanding

nurses; and

- -- reporting with evidence-based data the relationship of nursing care to the positive outcomes of the health of consumers;
- C provide consultation, technical assistance and information related to nursing resources within and outside of the State and serve as a clearinghouse for data related to nursing resources;
- C foster collaboration among members of the health care community to achieve policy consensus, promote diversity and enhance the knowledge of nurses and others in health policy and health services research; and
- c seek competitive funding to support specific research endeavors or model programs to enhance the resources available in supporting innovative projects.

Under the provisions of the substitute, the center would be governed by a 17-member board. A majority of the members first appointed to the board are to include nurse representatives from among the members of the New Jersey Colleagues in Caring collaborative.

The members are to be appointed as follows:

- -- four members appointed by the President of the Senate who include: one representative of acute care facilities recommended by the New Jersey Hospital Association; one representative of long-term care facilities recommended by the Health Care Association of New Jersey; one registered professional nurse recommended by the New Jersey State Nurses Association; and one representative of home health care agencies recommended by the Home Health Assembly of New Jersey;
- -- four members appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly who include: one registered professional nurse recommended by the New Jersey State Nurses Association; one registered professional nurse recommended by the Organization of Nurse Executives New Jersey; one representative of acute care facilities recommended by the New Jersey Council of Teaching Hospitals; and one licensed practical nurse recommended by the Licensed Practical Nurse Association of New Jersey; and
- -- nine members appointed by the Governor who include: one registered professional nurse recommended by the New Jersey State Nurses Association; one registered professional nurse recommended by the New Jersey League for Nursing; one registered professional nurse recommended by the Health Professionals and Allied Employees, AFT/AFL-CIO; two consumers of health care; one representative of baccalaureate and higher degree university nursing programs recommended by the Council of Baccalaureate and Higher Degree Programs; one representative of associate degree nursing programs recommended by the Council of Associate Degree programs; one representative of diploma nursing programs recommended by the Association of Diploma Schools of Professional Nursing; and one representative of practical nursing programs recommended by the Licensed Practical Nurses Education Council.

The duties of the board are to:

- -- determine global policies for the center;
- -- implement the primary goals of the center as established in this substitute;
- -- appoint a multidisciplinary advisory council to provide input and advice on policy matters, which would include representatives from all of the organizations represented in the New Jersey Colleagues in Caring collaborative;
- -- appoint a full-time executive director who is to serve at the pleasure of the board and be qualified by training and experience to perform the duties of the office;
- -- apply for and accept grants of money available for carrying out the policies and activities of the center from the federal government, and accept gifts, grants and bequests of funds from individuals, foundations, corporations, governmental agencies and other organizations and institutions to carry out the purposes of this substitute; and
- -- report to the Governor and the Legislature one year after the center is established, and every two years thereafter, on its activities and findings.

Finally, the substitute provides that until such time as the members of the board are appointed, the New Jersey Colleagues in Caring collaborative is to be responsible for establishing the center and implementing the purposes of the substitute.

As reported by the committee, this substitute is identical to Senate Bill No. 495 (1R) ACA (Vitale/Matheussen), which the committee also reported on this date.



McGreevey Signs Bill to Establish Center for Nursing

## New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing will address nursing workforce issues

(TRENTON)—Pledging to improve patient care by attracting additional nurses to the profession, Governor James E. McGreevey today signed legislation, Senate Bill 495, to establish the New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing at Rutgers University.

"Nurses are the backbone of our healthcare system and we need to do all we can to encourage people to enter this rewarding field, because the demand for nurses has never been greater," said McGreevey. "We have taken action to establish the New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing in order attract nurses to the profession and support them in their efforts to provide quality health care in New Jersey."

The New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing is designed to continue the work of the New Jersey Colleagues in Caring Collaborative, which was established in 1996 under a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Grant with a primary focus of initiating nursing work force development in New Jersey.

AThis is a great day for the future of nursing in New Jersey because we have now committed to a Center dedicated to ensuring a thriving nursing community for our future needs," said Senator Joseph Vitale (D-Middlesex), co-chair of the Senate Health Committee. "Nursing students will learn that New Jersey is focused on meeting their educational and financial needs so they can make the career choice to work here. Our health care professions need our continued support and I believe Governor McGreevey=s action today reflects that commitment.

"New Jersey is seeing more and more registered nurse positions remain unfilled. As we look toward the future, the nursing shortage will only continue to grow if we do not take the necessary steps now to reverse this alarming trend," said Senator John Matheussen (R-Camden, Gloucester), co-chair of the Senate Health Committee. "By establishing the New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing at Rutgers, we can thoroughly examine the current issues facing our nursing professionals and find new ways to address these problems."

"As retirement age approaches for baby boomers who entered the nursing field more than 20 years ago, fewer nursing students are graduating to fill the resulting void. Over the last few years, this has created a dangerous nursing shortage that is crippling our healthcare system,"

said Assemblywoman Loretta Weinberg (D-Bergen), the chairwoman of the Assembly Health and Human Services Committee. "Members of the governing board will provide professional expertise that will be integral in shaping the center's curriculum. Just as nurses are the backbone of the health care industry, members of this board will be the backbone of the center."

"The Collaborative Center for Nursing is just what the doctor ordered to educate, recruit, and retain nurses," said Assemblyman Matt Ahearn (D-Bergen). "This center will remedy the nursing shortage currently jeopardizing the quality of health care and the availability of medical services. Students enrolled at the center will use state-of- the-art medical equipment and learn cutting-edge medical procedures."

The primary goals of the Collaborating Center for Nursing also focus on work force development. These goals include creating a strategic plan for the continuing development of an adequately educated and trained nursing workforce; promoting the important contributions of the nursing work force to the health of the State; and providing consultation, technical assistance and information related to nursing resources and serving as a clearinghouse for data related to nursing resources.

In addition, the Center aims to foster collaboration among members of the health care community to achieve policy consensus, to promote diversity and to educate nurses and others in health policy and health services research. Finally, the Center will work to ensure competitive funding to enhance the resources available for innovative projects.

The NJCCN will be administered by an Executive Director under the direction of a sixteenmember board. Four of the Board's members will be appointed by the Senate President, four will be appointed by the Assembly Speaker and nine will be appointed by the Governor. The bill requires a majority of members first appointed to the Board to include nurse representatives who were members of the New Jersey Colleagues in Caring Collaborative.

According to Colleagues in Caring, the number of entry-level graduating Registered Nurses peaked in 1995. There was a 12% decrease in new RN graduates between 1997 and 1998, and another 12% decrease between 1998 and 1999. It is estimated that New Jersey will have a shortage of nearly 14,000 Registered Nurses in 2006.

