

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 48th Legislature (2002)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 2209

By: Paulk

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to professions and occupations; creating the School Professional Nurse Staff Task Force; providing legislative findings; providing for duties; providing for appointment; providing for membership; providing for appointment of officers; meetings; vacancies and quorum; providing for reimbursement; requiring public input; requiring cooperation; requiring a final report; providing for termination; providing for codification; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 575 of Title 59, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The Oklahoma Legislature finds that:

1. There is a diminishing supply of school nurses serving the health needs of students in the state's school districts;
2. The supply of nurses has not increased in proportion to school enrollment;
3. The increasingly complex health needs of students can no longer be adequately met by the delegation of nursing tasks to unlicensed and untrained school personnel, such as teachers, teacher's assistants, and secretarial staff, without compromising the health of students and exposing school districts to legal liability; and
4. Removing health barriers to learning is essential to the successful education of students and should be addressed in the

state's public schools by recognizing the need for additional school nurses and establishing a statewide nurse/student ratio.

B. There is hereby established a School Professional Nurse Staff Task Force to:

1. Develop a standard nurse/student ratio for the state;
2. Develop methodology for determining caseload factors which may influence the nurse/student ratio at schools including, but not limited to, mandated functions, social economic and cultural status of a community, special health problems, mobility, and geographic location;
3. Investigate and recommend possible funding sources;
4. Identify strategies to enhance recruitment and retention of school nurses, especially in rural and inner-city areas;
5. Recommend potential changes in nursing curriculums and ways to expand the use of technology to prepare the type of competently trained graduates required by the public school system; and
6. Gather information on work completed by other groups, states, and the federal government related to the school nurse shortage.

C. The membership shall consist of the following members:

1. Two members of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker;
2. Two members of the Oklahoma State Senate, appointed by the President Pro Tempore;
3. Two members appointed by the Governor;
4. The Superintendent of Public Instruction;
5. The Secretary of Education;
6. Three members from the Oklahoma Nurses Association;
7. One member from the State School Boards Association;
8. One member from the University of Oklahoma School of Nursing;

9. One member from the Oklahoma State University School of Nursing;

10. One member from the Oklahoma Board of Nursing; and

11. One member from the State Board of Career and Technology Education.

D. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint a chair from the legislative members and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall appoint a vice-chair from the legislative members.

E. The Chair shall call the first meeting of the Task Force on or before September 1, 2002.

F. Vacancies shall be filled by the appointing authority where such vacancy exists.

G. A majority of the members appointed to the Task Force shall constitute a quorum and a majority present at a meeting may act for the Task Force.

H. Legislative members shall be reimbursed pursuant to the provisions of Section 456 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Nonlegislative members shall be reimbursed by their appointing authority for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties pursuant to the provisions of the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

I. The Task Force may divide into subcommittees in furtherance of its purposes.

J. The Task Force shall actively seek and consider input from the public, school teachers and administrators the health care business community, nursing associations, parents, public interest organizations, professional organizations, or any other interested group or person in this state. The Task Force shall solicit and accept written comments, recommendations and proposals and shall hold public hearings to obtain comments from the public.

K. All departments, officers, agencies and employees of this state shall cooperate with the Task Force in carrying out its duties

and responsibilities, including providing any information, records and reports as may be requested by the Task Force.

L. The Task Force shall submit a final report to the Governor, the Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the State Senate no later than February 15, 2003, regarding the findings and recommendations of the Task Force.

M. The Task Force shall terminate on June 1, 2003.

SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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