

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 52nd Legislature (2009)

3 SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION  
4 FOR ENGROSSED

5 SENATE BILL NO. 310

By: Paddock of the Senate

and

Cox of the House

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9 SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

10 An Act relating to schools; amending Section 5,  
11 Chapter 387, O.S.L. 2008 (70 O.S. Supp. 2008, Section  
12 2640), which relates to the Oklahoma Health Care  
13 Workers and Educators Assistance Program; making  
award of scholarships contingent on availability of  
funds; providing an effective date; and declaring an  
emergency.

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

17 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 5, Chapter 387, O.S.L.  
18 2008 (70 O.S. Supp. 2008, Section 2640), is amended to read as  
19 follows:

20 Section 2640. A. There is hereby established the Oklahoma  
21 Health Care Workers and Educators Assistance Program. The purpose  
22 of the program shall be to encourage persons to enter nursing and  
23 allied health careers within this state. Priority in awarding  
24 assistance is intended to go toward those career fields in which

1 there is an urgent need for qualified employees to provide health  
2 care services or in career fields in which a shortage of qualified  
3 employees is projected to exist in the future.

4 B. Only students who are residents of this state shall be  
5 eligible to participate in the Oklahoma Health Care Workers and  
6 Educators Assistance Program.

7 C. Only students of accredited or recognized health care  
8 programs or colleges and universities shall be eligible for awards  
9 from the Oklahoma Health Care Workers and Educators Assistance  
10 Program.

11 D. The Oklahoma Health Care Workers and Educators Assistance  
12 Program shall be administered by the Health Care Workforce Resources  
13 Board. The Board is authorized to enter into an agreement with the  
14 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for fiscal services as  
15 may be necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

16 E. The Health Care Workforce Resources Board shall implement  
17 the provisions of this section in the most balanced, efficient, and  
18 effective means necessary to meet the following priorities:

19 1. Create additional nursing or allied health faculty by  
20 providing scholarships to cover individuals' costs of gaining the  
21 advanced degrees necessary to serve as faculty members in nursing  
22 and allied health education programs;

23 2. Expand and modernize learning environments by providing  
24 matching grants to nursing and allied health education institutions

1 to increase the number of clinical opportunities, and to better  
2 utilize online and distance learning, simulations, and other  
3 innovative methods to provide education and training; and

4 3. Attract more students in nursing and allied health careers  
5 by providing scholarships to cover individuals' costs of gaining  
6 degrees or certifications necessary to prepare them for nursing and  
7 allied health occupations.

8 F. The Board shall make an annual public declaration of which  
9 nursing and allied health care education fields have been identified  
10 for priority funding due to either an urgent need for qualified  
11 employees or due to a determination of a future shortage of  
12 qualified employees.

13 G. ~~Implementation of the provisions of this section shall be~~  
14 Scholarships established through the Oklahoma Health Care Workers  
15 and Educators Assistance Program may be awarded contingent on funds  
16 made available through the State Regents for Higher Education.

17 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2009.

18 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
19 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby  
20 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
21 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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