

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2021 REGULAR SESSION

Originating

House Bill 2030

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[Originating in the Committee on Education; Reported

on March 18, 2021]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article,
 2 designated §18B-16A-1, §18B-16A-2, §18B-16A-3, and §18B-16A-4, all relating to a
 3 establishing a nursing program at Concord University; providing for funding; and setting
 4 forth accountability and reporting requirements.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 16A. CONCORD NURSING PROGRAM.

§18B-16A-1. Establishment of the Concord nursing program.

1 The Legislature recognizes the growing shortage of qualified nurses in the state and that
 2 currently the state has a shortage of more than 2,000 trained and qualified nurses and recognizes
 3 that number is expected increase in the coming years. Due to accreditation requirements, limited
 4 capacity for field experience and clinical placements, and needed facility requirements, existing
 5 nursing programs in the state are currently at or near enrollment capacity and it is therefore clear
 6 that new nursing programs must be added to address this growing shortage. Accordingly, the
 7 Legislature authorizes Concord University to establish a nursing program that ultimately can
 8 accommodate a minimum of 30 new nursing students each year to help address the growing
 9 needs of the state. By October 1, 2021, under the direction and administration of the Vice
 10 Chancellor for health services, the commission's division of health sciences shall develop and
 11 assist Concord University in developing a nursing program that may begin in the fall semester of
 12 2022, but shall begin to accept students no later than the fall of 2023. Prior to implementation of
 13 this program, Concord University shall submit an application to establish a new pre-licenser
 14 nursing education program for the preparation of practitioners of registered professional nursing
 15 to the West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses and shall comply
 16 with §30-7-5 and §30-7-5a of the Code until such time as they achieve national board certification.

§18B-16A-2. Implementation of the program.

1 (a) The commission's division of health sciences shall create criteria for funding of the
 2 program that shall be based on the following:

3 (1) Attainment by the nursing program of accreditation by a national nursing accrediting
4 agency recognized by the United States Department of Education;

5 (2) Ability to scale the nursing program for cohort to be entered into as early as the fall of
6 2022, but no later than the fall of 2023, including hiring of faculty, establishment of clinical sites,
7 and procurement of appropriate resources;

8 (3) Presentation of a plan for success with an expanded class including, but not limited to,
9 retention, graduation, and licensure examination success; and

10 (4) Plan for assistance with career placement in the state upon graduation.

§18B-16A-3. Funding.

1 (a) The Concord University nursing program established in this article shall be supported
2 financially in part by a line item appropriation to the Concord University account that shall be a
3 part of the request by Concord University and the Higher Education Policy Commission in their
4 budget requests. In fiscal year 2023, the Higher Education Policy Commission shall include in
5 their budget requests, and the Governor shall include in each budget bill submitted to the
6 legislature, an appropriation for the Concord University nursing program in an amount not less
7 than \$1,5000,000 for fiscal year 2023, to cover initial costs and operating costs, and in the
8 following 4 years, a minimum of \$1,000,000.00, for continuing operating and start-up costs and
9 expenses, with the expectation that the Concord University nursing program will become self-
10 funding thereafter. Appropriations to the Concord University nursing program shall be by line item.

11 (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code, any funds appropriated to support
12 the Concord University nursing program that remain unallocated or unexpended at the end of any
13 fiscal year shall not expire, shall remain in the line item to which they were originally appropriated,
14 and shall be available in the next fiscal year to the Vice Chancellor for health services and the
15 commission's division of health services for allocation or expenditure for the purposes of this
16 article.

17 (2) Additional financial support shall come from fees generated by services, from grants

18 and contracts, and from community resources. Any fees so generated shall be paid to and
19 expended by the Concord University nursing program unless an alternative fee arrangement is
20 mutually agreed upon by the chief administrator of the Program and the Vice Chancellor for health
21 sciences.

22 (b) Consistent with the Legislative declaration, in §18B-2-6 of this code, that adequate
23 funding will be pursued to maintain the accreditation, integrity, and quality of nursing or medical
24 education and other health sciences programs, the commission's division of health sciences shall
25 prepare a budget for the Concord University nursing program established in this article with
26 funding included for, but not limited to, the following:

27 (1) Salary and benefits for the nursing program faculty and staff;

28 (2) Student financial support or assistance in exchange for a commitment to render one
29 year of nursing services in West Virginia for each year of financial support.

§18B-16A-4. Accountability, reports required.

1 (a) The West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses shall report
2 annually by September 30, of each year on the progress of the Concord University nursing
3 program's progress towards national accreditation to the Joint Legislative Oversight Commission
4 on Education Accountability created under §29A-3A-11 of this code..

5 (b) The Legislative Auditor, at the direction of the Joint Committee on Government and
6 Finance, shall perform on an ongoing basis a fiscal audit of the Concord University nursing
7 program for periodic review by the Legislature.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to establish a nursing program at Concord University. The bill provides for funding, and sets forth accountability and reporting requirements.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.