

1 State of Arkansas As Engrossed: S2/22/23 S3/28/23

2 94th General Assembly

# A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2023

SENATE BILL 299

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5 By: Senator K. Hammer

6 By: Representatives Cavanaugh, Bentley, Vaught, *Wardlaw*

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## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH NURSING EARN-TO-LEARN PROGRAMS;  
10 TO AUTHORIZE A NURSING STUDENT TO EARN DIRECT PATIENT  
11 CARE CLINICAL CREDIT HOURS FOR WORKING IN A  
12 HEALTHCARE FACILITY IN CERTAIN JOBS; AND FOR OTHER  
13 PURPOSES.

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## Subtitle

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 82, is amended to add an  
27 additional subchapter to read as follows:

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Subchapter 22 – Nursing Earn-to-Learn Programs

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6-82-2201. Definitions.

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As used in this subchapter:

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(1) "Healthcare facility" means an office or institution

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providing:

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(A) Care or treatment of diseases, whether physical,

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mental, or emotional, or other medical, physiological, or psychological

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conditions; or



1                   (B) Nursing clinical hours to a nursing program; and  
2                   (2) "Nursing program" means a nursing training or education  
3 program with its primary headquarters located in Arkansas that:

4                   (A) Prepares students as nurses;

5                   (B) Grants nursing diplomas; and

6                   (C) Is approved by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing.

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8                   6-82-2202. Nursing earn-to-learn programs.

9                   (a)(1) A nursing program may establish a nursing earn-to-learn program  
10 to allow a nursing student who is seeking an initial licensure as a licensed  
11 practical nurse or a registered nurse to earn direct patient care clinical  
12 credit hours while working in a healthcare facility as a certified nursing  
13 assistant, patient care technician, or other job with a similar title.

14                   (2) A nursing student may not work greater than twenty (20)  
15 hours per week as a certified nursing assistant, patient care technician, or  
16 other job with a similar title.

17                   (3) The direct patient clinical credit hours earned under this  
18 section shall not exceed fifty percent (50%) of the direct patient care  
19 clinical credit hours outlined in the foundational curricula of the nursing  
20 program or the senior level curricula of the nursing program.

21                   (b)(1) If a healthcare facility offers an advanced patient care  
22 position within the roles listed in subdivision (a)(1) of this section or  
23 with an additional position specifically for senior-level nursing students,  
24 then a senior-level nursing student may be allowed to receive credit for  
25 senior-level direct patient care clinical hours.

26                   (2) A senior-level nursing student who is working in an advanced  
27 nursing role shall work with at least one (1) nurse but not more than two (2)  
28 nurses to protect patient safety and to allow for a focused, quality student  
29 experience.

30                   (3) The nursing program and the healthcare facility shall  
31 establish boundaries and expectations of the senior-level nursing student  
32 based on accreditation standards and rules of the Arkansas State Board of  
33 Nursing.

34                   (c) A nursing program and a healthcare facility shall collaborate to  
35 establish a standardized student evaluation process.

36                   (d) A healthcare facility participating in a nursing earn-to-learn

1 program shall identify at least one (1) nurse supervisor or clinical nurse  
2 educator to oversee the nursing students.

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*/s/K. Hammer*

**APPROVED: 4/11/23**