

State of Arkansas

77th General Assembly

Regular Session, 1989

A Bill

SENATE BILL

110

By: Committee on Public Health, Welfare and Labor

For An Act To Be Entitled

"AN ACT TO AMEND CHAPTER 51 OF TITLE 6 OF THE ARKANSAS CODE OF 1987 TO ESTABLISH AN ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE NURSING PROGRAM (AASN) IN THE VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOLS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

SECTION 1. Title 6, Chapter 51 of the Arkansas Code of 1987 is hereby amended by adding the following new subchapter:

"Section 6-51-701. (a) The Department of Education-Vocational and Technical Education Division is hereby authorized to establish for the vocational-technical schools of this state an Associate in Applied Science Degree Nursing Program.

(b) A prescribed course of instruction shall be established by the Vocational and Technical Education Division of the Department of Education. Such course of instruction shall be in accordance with the standards established by the State Board of Nursing with regards to equipment, library, laboratory and classroom facilities, teaching faculty, support personnel, and health care institutional affiliation. The course of instruction shall also be developed in such manner as to be recognized by the national accreditation association of nursing programs. The course of instruction shall allow for not more than 12 semester hours of credit for nursing experience. Only a maximum of 25 semester hours of credit by 'general education' by challenge (CLEP) shall be allowed. Students shall complete a five-week summer transition course which is in accordance with standards set by the State Board of Nursing.

(c) Any vocational technical school desiring to offer the Associate of Applied Science Degree Nursing Program may apply for approval to the Arkansas State Board of Vocational Education. If approval is granted, the school must

then seek approval from the Arkansas State Board of Nursing.

(d) The State Board of Vocational Education is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations necessary to implement this subchapter. Such rules and regulations shall comply with the Arkansas Administrative Procedures Act, Ark. Code §25-15-201 et seq.

(e) Courses of instruction shall be designed to enable the student completing the program to qualify for licensure as a registered nurse upon taking and passing the examination required by the State Board of Nursing.

(f) The program of instruction as authorized in this subchapter may be offered to Licensed Practical Nurses or Licensed Psychiatric Technician Nurses duly licensed by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing. For admittance to the Associate in Applied Science Degree Nursing Program, the LPN or LPTN must have:

(1) a minimum of 2,000 total hours of documented work and occupational experience in a health care institution;

(2) documentation from an official of a health care institution that the candidate has been an employee for the required length of time.

(g) For purposes of (f) above, a 'health care institution' means a hospital, a long-term care facility, a medical doctor's office or clinic, out-patient clinic, residential care facility, any of several state agencies, or employment as a public health, industrial, or school nurse.

Section 6-51-702. The Licensed Practical Nurse or Licensed Psychiatric Technician Nurse to Registered Nurse Program (LPN or LPTN to RN Program) is an upward mobility program for licensed practical nurses or licensed psychiatric technician nurses who have completed one calendar year (2,000 hours minimum) of work in a health care institution. The program of study will lead to the Associate in Applied Science Degree in Nursing (AASN).

Section 6-51-703. The State Board of Vocational Education is authorized to grant the Degree to students who complete the full course of instruction which entitles them to the Degree; the diploma is to be signed by such officials as the board shall designate."

SECTION 2. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

SECTION 3. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

SECTION 4. EMERGENCY. It is hereby found and determined by the General Assembly that there is a shortage of qualified nurses in the state; that the critical health care needs of the people of this state require the immediate passage of this act. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this act being necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.