

1 State of Arkansas  
2 94th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2023  
4

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 299

5 By: Senator K. Hammer  
6 By: Representatives Cavanaugh, Bentley, Vaught  
7

## 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

17 TO ESTABLISH NURSING EARN-TO-LEARN  
18 PROGRAMS; AND TO AUTHORIZE A NURSING  
19 STUDENT TO EARN DIRECT PATIENT CARE  
20 CLINICAL CREDIT HOURS FOR WORKING IN A  
21 HEALTHCARE FACILITY IN CERTAIN JOBS.  
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24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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26 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 82, is amended to add an  
27 additional subchapter to read as follows:

### Subchapter 22 – Nursing Earn-to-Learn Programs

#### 6-82-2201. Definitions.

#### As used in this subchapter:

32 (1) "Healthcare facility" means an office or institution  
33 providing:

34 (A) Care or treatment of diseases, whether physical,  
35 mental, or emotional, or other medical, physiological, or psychological  
36 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 shall establish a nursing earn-to-learn  
10 program to allow a nursing student who is seeking an initial licensure as a  
11 licensed practical nurse or a registered nurse to earn direct patient care  
12 clinical credit hours while working in a healthcare facility as a certified  
13 nursing assistant, patient care technician, or other job with a similar  
14 title.

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

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

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

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

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

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

1       (d) A healthcare facility participating in a nursing earn-to-learn  
2 program shall identify at least one (1) nurse supervisor or clinical nurse  
3 educator to oversee the nursing students.  
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