

State of Arkansas

As Engrossed: S2/22/23

94th General Assembly

A Bill

Regular Session, 2023

SENATE BILL 302

By: Senator K. Hammer

By: Representatives Cavanaugh, Bentley, Vaught, Wardlaw

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE THE CLINICAL NURSE EDUCATION PORTAL;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CREATE THE CLINICAL NURSE EDUCATION
PORTAL.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 17, Chapter 87, Subchapter 2, is
amended to add additional sections to read as follows:

17-87-208. Clinical Nurse Education Portal.

(a) The Department of Health, in coordination with the Arkansas State
Board of Nursing, shall establish the "Clinical Nurse Education Portal".

(b) The portal shall:

(1) Be a statewide management software system that contains
information for all nursing programs in Arkansas in relation to clinical
nursing placement access for nursing students and healthcare facilities;

(2) Be compliant with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy
Act of 1974, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g, and the Health Insurance Portability and
Accountability Act of 1996;

(3) Provide clinical access and utilization data to the board to
inform future quality improvement initiatives;

(4) Contain compliance, orientation, clinical schedules, and
affiliation information for a clinical nursing placement; and

(5) Be accessible to all healthcare providers and nursing



1 programs with clinical hour requirements, including simulation laboratory
2 hours.

3 (c) The department may contract with a non-state entity to establish
4 and maintain the portal.

5 (d)(1) All nursing programs and healthcare providers participating or
6 desire to participate in providing nursing clinical experiences shall have
7 access to the portal and the ability to manage clinical requests,
8 affiliations, and clinical compliance utilizing the software.

9 (2) A nursing program or healthcare provider is not required to
10 adopt the use of the portal as their primary clinical experience management
11 software.

12 (3) However, a nursing program or a healthcare provider may not
13 refuse onboarding or compliance information shared via the portal once
14 agreements are made for a clinical experience placement.

15 (e)(1) On the year-anniversary of the effective date of this section
16 and annually thereafter, the department shall report on the implementation,
17 progress, and activity of the portal to the:

18 (A) Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor;
19 and

20 (B) House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor.

21 (2) The Chair of the Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare,
22 and Labor or the Chair of the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and
23 Labor may request any additional reports at their discretion.

24 (f)(1) The portal may be funded by one-time funds under the American
25 Rescue Plan Act, if available and eligible, to fund personnel and build
26 software programs.

27 (2) In order to maintain the portal, the department may charge a
28 fee to nursing programs or healthcare providers, or both, that use the
29 portal.

30 (g) The department may expand the portal to include other disciplines
31 of healthcare professionals.

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33 */s/K. Hammer*
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