

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1091

Introduced by Dorn, 30.

Read first time January 19, 2022

Committee: Health and Human Services

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to nurses; to adopt the Nebraska Nursing
- 2 Incentive Act; to provide scholarships as prescribed; and to state
- 3 intent regarding appropriation of federal funds.
- 4 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Sections 1 to 6 of this act shall be known and may be
2 cited as the Nebraska Nursing Incentive Act.

3 Sec. 2. The Legislature finds and declares that:

4 (1) There is a nursing shortage in Nebraska. Nebraska will
5 experience a shortage of more than five thousand nurses by 2025. Seventy-
6 three of Nebraska's ninety-three counties have less than the national
7 average ratio of registered nurses to patients. Sixty-six counties in
8 Nebraska have been deemed medically underserved. Nine counties in
9 Nebraska have no registered nurses, and four counties have just one
10 registered nurse; and

11 (2) The nursing shortage affects both Nebraska's physical health and
12 its economic health. Lack of care impedes the ability of communities
13 throughout the state to attract and retain residents and the businesses
14 that employ them. The issue has only become more exacerbated during the
15 COVID-19 pandemic.

16 Sec. 3. For purposes of the Nebraska Nursing Incentive Act:

17 (1) Approved nursing program means a program offered by a public or
18 private postsecondary institution in Nebraska which consists of courses
19 of instruction in regularly scheduled classes leading only to an
20 associate degree, diploma, or certificate in nursing; and

21 (2) Department means the Department of Health and Human Services.

22 Sec. 4. The department shall administer a scholarship program under
23 the Nebraska Nursing Incentive Act and shall award scholarships to
24 students who qualify under section 5 of this act.

25 Sec. 5. To qualify for a scholarship under the Nebraska Nursing
26 Incentive Act, a student shall (1) be a resident of Nebraska, (2) intend
27 to enroll in an approved nursing program, (3) intend to practice as a
28 licensed practical nurse or nurse aide upon completion of the approved
29 nursing program, and (4) agree in writing to work for two years in this
30 state as a licensed practical nurse or nurse aid upon completion of the
31 approved nursing program.

1 Sec. 6. It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate five
2 million dollars from Federal Funds for fiscal year 2022-23 to the
3 department to carry out the Nebraska Nursing Incentive Act. The Federal
4 Funds to be appropriated are from funds allocated to the State of
5 Nebraska from the federal Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund pursuant
6 to the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2,
7 Subtitle M, Sec. 9901.