

Senate Bill No. 375—Senators Seevers Gansert  
and Cannizzaro

Joint Sponsors: Assemblymen Yeager and O’Neill

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT making an appropriation to the Nevada System of Higher Education for a grant program to expand undergraduate and graduate nursing programs at institutions within the System; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

WHEREAS, The United States is projected to experience a shortage of registered nurses that is expected to intensify in coming years as the demand for health care services grows, particularly as the “Baby Boomer” generation ages; and

WHEREAS, Nursing schools across the United States are struggling to expand capacity to meet the rising demand for care; and

WHEREAS, In 2018, the American Journal of Medical Quality published an article titled “United States Registered Nurse Workforce Report Card and Shortage Forecast: A Revisit” that predicts an increasing shortage of registered nurses across the country through the year 2030; and

WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the shortage of nurses, and ongoing issues related to insufficient staffing are raising the stress level of nurses, impacting job satisfaction and resulting in many nurses leaving the profession; and

WHEREAS, The Nevada Hospital Association has reported that this State is short more than 7,500 nurses; and

WHEREAS, This State and its health care system are vulnerable when hospital beds and health care services are threatened due to the nursing shortage in the State; and

WHEREAS, The shortage of nurses in this State will continue to grow absent a concerted effort by policy makers to increase the number of registered nurses; and

WHEREAS, Increasing the number of nurses in this State will require targeted investments in nursing programs within the Nevada System of Higher Education; and

WHEREAS, Targeted funding for public nursing programs can help to address the shortage of faculty, clinical instructors and preceptors in nursing programs within the Nevada System of Higher Education; and

WHEREAS, Additional funding can address inadequate equipment and resources in nursing programs within the Nevada



System of Higher Education which is necessary to increase the capacity of such programs; now, therefore,

EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

**Section 1.** 1. There is hereby appropriated from the State General Fund to the Nevada System of Higher Education for a grant program to expand undergraduate and graduate nursing programs at institutions within the Nevada System of Higher Education the following sums:

- For the Fiscal Year 2023-2024..... \$10,000,000
- For the Fiscal Year 2024-2025..... \$10,000,000

2. The Board of Regents of the University of Nevada shall develop and implement a grant program to award grants from the money appropriated by subsection 1 to institutions within the Nevada System of Higher Education to expand the undergraduate and graduate nursing programs at such institutions.

3. The grants awarded pursuant to subsection 2:

- (a) May be used only for operating costs associated with expanding undergraduate and graduate nursing programs at the institution receiving the grant, including, without limitation, costs related to faculty, staff and equipment; and
- (b) Must not be used for capital expenditures, including, without limitation, the construction of new facilities.

4. The sums appropriated by subsection 1 are available for either fiscal year. Any remaining balance of those sums must not be committed for expenditure after June 30, 2025, by the entity to which the appropriation is made or any entity to which money from the appropriation is granted or otherwise transferred in any manner, and any portion of the appropriated money remaining must not be spent for any purpose after September 19, 2025, by either the entity to which the money was appropriated or the entity to which the money was subsequently granted or transferred, and must be reverted to the State General Fund on or before September 19, 2025.

**Sec. 2.** This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.

