

Department of Planning and Budget

2011 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB 1245

House of Origin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. Patron: Vogel, Jill Holtzman

3. Committee: Education and Health

4. Title: Registered nurses; provisional licensure

5. Summary: This bill will allow the Board of Nursing to issue a provisional license to an applicant for licensure as a registered nurse who has met the educational and examination requirements for licensure, in order to allow the applicant to obtain clinical experience. A person practicing under a provisional license shall only practice under the supervision of a licensed registered nurse, in accordance with regulations established by the board.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No. The cost of this bill cannot be determined. A nongeneral fund appropriation can be provided administratively until such time as the costs are ascertained and Appropriation Act adjusted.

7. Fiscal Impact Is Unknown (see item 8)

8. Fiscal Implications: Currently applicants for a registered nurse license must have 500 hours of clinical experience. This bill will allow applicants to receive a newly created provisional license and practice as a registered nurse under supervision until such time as they accumulate 500 hours of clinical experience. At such time, the provisional licensee will reapply to the Board of Nursing for full licensure.

Establishing a provisional license in the Commonwealth will require rulemaking (estimated at \$3,000) and a mass mailing to employers explaining this new licensure class (estimated at \$500). In addition, the Department of Health Professions will require some additional staff support with regulatory activities.

It is assumed that the licensing process for provisional applicants will be more complicated than the current process for licensees. Not only will an application have to be reviewed twice (first for provisional licensure then for full licensure) it is also assumed that these applications will require a more hands-on review. For example, currently law requires that a registered nurse be a graduate of an approved program. Since all approved programs in the Commonwealth require the necessary clinical experience licensing specialists only need to confirm graduation. More background work will need to occur when reviewing applications associated with provisional licenses. Furthermore, with the addition of new licensees the

department's disciplinary workload will increase by some measure. Enforcement staff will be required to investigate additional complaints against provisionally licensed individuals accused of misconduct. Moreover, additional board resources will be required to provide the subsequent review and adjudication of these cases.

A specific dollar amount cannot be estimated for the added agency costs since there is no provisional license in Virginia to reference and the department does not have experience with a similar profession. It is assumed that additional part-time staff will be utilized, as necessary, to augment existing licensure and enforcement staff. It is further assumed that the department will implement a fee structure for the provisional license applicants that will cover any increased costs once determined.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:
Department of Health Professions

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None

Date: 1/28/11

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