



## **SUMMARY OF THE NURSE REINVESTMENT ACT PL. 107-205**

### **Creation of Nurse Service Corps:**

Establishes within the current nurse education loan repayment authority a scholarship program for nursing students who agree to work in a shortage area for at least 2 years after completing their degree. Allows nurses who are satisfying their obligation for loan repayment and scholarships to work in any "health care facility with a critical nursing shortage." For profit facilities are specifically included as eligible entities through 2007.

Allows part-time students to qualify for scholarships. Allows nurses to work part-time in a facility with the critical nursing shortage, as long as the individual enters a written contract that is approved by the facility and the Secretary. Grants Secretary ability to shift funds between loan repayments and scholarships. Requires a report to Congress 18 months after enactment and annually thereafter describing the operations of the loan repayment and scholarship programs.

### **Public Service Announcements:**

Instructs the Secretary to develop and issue PSAs to highlight advantages and rewards of nursing, and encourage individuals to enter the nursing profession. PSAs shall be broadcast through appropriate media outlets to reach as wide and diverse an audience as possible.

Also allows the Secretary to award grants to eligible non-federal entities (schools of nursing, nursing centers, academic health centers, state and local governments, and other public or private nonprofit entities recognized by the Secretary) to support state and local media campaigns. Funds may be used to acquire local TV and radio time, place ads in newspapers, and post information on billboards and the internet.

### **Nurse Education, Retention, and Practice Grants:**

Amends current basic nurse education act authority to create three separate concentrations: education, practice, and retention. Within the new retention authority, provides Secretary with the ability to award grants to eligible entities (schools of nursing, health care facilities, or coalitions of schools and facilities) to promote career advancement for nursing personnel (RNs, LPNs, CNAs, HHAs), to promote specialty training, to develop pre-entry programs, and to support mentoring and career counseling.

Within the new retention authority, allows Secretary to award grants to eligible entities to improve patient care sensitive to nursing activities by enhancing collaboration among health care professionals, and by promoting nurse involvement in the organizational and decision making processes of the health care facility. These grants are designed to encourage facilities to implement the American Nurses Credentialing Center's (ANCC's) Magnet Recognition Program criteria for excellence in nursing services.

### **Geriatric Nurse Training Grants:**

Creates new authority that allows the Secretary to award grants to eligible entities (schools of nursing, health care facilities, or coalitions of schools and facilities) to develop and implement programs to train and educate nurses who provide geriatric care. Funds may be used for direct training, for curriculum development, to train faculty, and to provide continuing education.

**Faculty Loan Repayment Grants:**

Allows the Secretary to establish student loan funds within schools of nursing. These funds would be used to cancel up to 85 percent of the student loans (plus interest, over 4 years) of Masters or Doctoral students who agree to serve as full-time nursing faculty in the school after completion of their degree.