

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: April 21, 2008  
POSITION: Neutral

BILL NUMBER: SB 1620  
AUTHOR: R. Ashburn

**BILL SUMMARY: Community College Nursing Faculty**

This bill would allow community colleges (CCC's) to employ clinical nursing faculty teaching a full-time instructional load as temporary faculty members, with no semester or quarter limitations, until June 30, 2014. This bill would also exempt all part-time and full-time clinical nursing faculty from calculations of the 75 percent rule, discussed below.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

This imposes no state level costs. Local districts may experience some salary savings, to the extent that they utilize more temporary nursing faculty, rather than tenure-track full-time faculty. Additionally, to the extent that a local college's use of part-time nursing faculty resulted in their failure to comply with the 75 percent rule, these colleges may avoid fiscal penalties issued by the Chancellor's Office.

**COMMENTS**

The Department of Finance is neutral on this bill for the following reason:

- This bill provides more flexibility for community colleges to allow temporary and part-time clinical nursing faculty to provide instruction. This bill may also result in cost savings for local colleges to the extent that they utilize more temporary or part-time clinical nursing faculty, rather than tenure-track full-time faculty.

Current law, referred to as the "75 percent rule", requires that full-time faculty teach at least 75 percent of credit instruction hours in a college district, and that districts maintain that proportion in hiring new faculty. Additional Chancellor's Office regulations require all districts below this target to make annual progress toward this standard, and further require each district below this target to create a five-year plan for reaching the 75 percent level. Districts who fail to reach the 75 percent target on an annual basis are subject to General Apportionment reductions determined by the Chancellors Office. Finally, current law allows clinical nursing faculty teaching a full-time instructional load to be employed as temporary faculty for no more than four semesters or six quarters.

Anecdotal accounts indicate that while there have been increases in the total number of nursing faculty in recent years, they have not kept pace with the need for faculty. Given the important role that CCC's play in preparing registered nurses and licensed vocational nurses, restrictions on the employment of nursing faculty hinder the ability of CCC's to provide this high demand instruction.

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Analyst/Principal (0343) T. Todd	Date	Program Budget Manager Jeannie Oropeza	Date
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Department Deputy Director	Date
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Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____
			Position Disapproved _____

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**BILL ANALYSIS** Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)

**BILL ANALYSIS/ENROLLED BILL REPORT--(CONTINUED)**

**AUTHOR**

**AMENDMENT DATE**

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R. Ashburn

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SB 1620

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)							Fund Code
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)							
	CO	PROP							
	RV	98	FC	2007-2008	FC	2008-2009	FC	2009-2010	
6870/Comm College	LA	No		-----	See Fiscal Summary	-----			0001