

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 24, 2025

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2025–26 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1400

Introduced by Assembly Member Soria

February 21, 2025

~~An act relating to postsecondary education.~~ *An act to add and repeal Article 3.3 (commencing with Section 78045) of Chapter 1 of Part 48 of Division 7 of Title 3 of the Education Code, relating to postsecondary education.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AB 1400, as amended, Soria. ~~Postsecondary education: nursing education.~~ *Community colleges: Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing Pilot Program.*

Existing law establishes the California Community Colleges, under the administration of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. Existing law establishes community college districts throughout the state, under the administration of community college district governing boards, and authorizes these districts to provide instruction at the community college campuses they operate. Existing law establishes a statewide baccalaureate degree program that authorizes up to a total of 30 baccalaureate degree programs at community college districts to be approved per academic year, as provided.

This bill would require the office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to develop a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing Pilot Program that authorizes select community college districts to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. The bill would limit the pilot program to 15 community college districts statewide and would

require the chancellor's office to identify and select eligible community college districts based on specified criteria. The bill would require the chancellor's office to develop a process designed to assist community college districts with nursing programs that are applying for national accreditation for the purpose of qualifying for the pilot program, as provided. The bill would require each participating community college district to give priority registration for enrollment in the pilot program to students with an associate degree in nursing from that community college district. The bill would require the Legislative Analyst's Office to conduct an evaluation of the pilot program to determine the effectiveness of the program and the need to continue or expand the program, as specified, to be submitted to the Legislature on or before July 1, 2033. The bill would repeal these provisions as of January 1, 2035.

~~Existing law establishes the California Community Colleges and the California State University as 2 of the 3 segments of public postsecondary education in the state. Existing law requires the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to encourage community college districts to standardize all nursing program prerequisites on a statewide basis and to negotiate and implement articulation agreements with the campuses of the California State University to which they send a significant number of nursing students.~~

~~This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact future legislation related to nursing education.~~

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~ yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Article 3.3 (commencing with Section 78045) is
2 added to Chapter 1 of Part 48 of Division 7 of Title 3 of the
3 Education Code, to read:

4
5 Article 3.3. Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing Pilot Program
6

7 78045. (a) Notwithstanding Section 66010.4, the office of the
8 Chancellor of the California Community Colleges shall develop
9 a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing Pilot Program that authorizes
10 select community college districts to offer a Bachelor of Science
11 in Nursing degree.

1 (b) (1) The pilot program shall be limited to 15 community
2 college districts statewide. The chancellor's office shall identify
3 and select eligible community college districts based on the
4 following criteria:

5 (A) The chancellor's office is encouraged to ensure there is
6 equitable access between the northern, central, and southern parts
7 of the state to the pilot program.

8 (B) Priority shall be given to community college districts located
9 in underserved nursing areas.

10 (C) Priority shall be given to community college districts where
11 the service area of the community college district includes
12 communities with persistent poverty.

13 (D) The community college districts shall have a nationally
14 accredited nursing program.

15 (2) A community college district selected for the pilot program
16 shall continue to offer an associate degree in nursing program.

17 (3) The total number of associate degree in nursing and bachelor
18 of science in nursing students at a community college district shall
19 be limited to the community college district's associate degree in
20 nursing class size approved by the Board of Registered Nursing,
21 and the total number of participants in a pilot program established
22 pursuant to this article shall be limited to 25 percent of that class
23 size, or 35 students, whichever is greater.

24 (c) (1) Community college districts without a nationally
25 accredited nursing program, but that are in "candidate" status,
26 may be provisionally selected to participate in the pilot program,
27 and may commence the program upon final accreditation. With
28 regard to this paragraph, priority shall be given to community
29 college districts located in the central valley. If a community
30 college district that is provisionally selected is found to be making
31 untimely progress toward accreditation, after notice and an
32 opportunity to cure, the chancellor's office may withdraw the
33 provisional selection and may select a different community college
34 district to participate in the pilot program.

35 (2) The chancellor's office shall develop a process designed to
36 assist community college districts with nursing programs that are
37 applying for national accreditation for the purpose of qualifying
38 for the pilot program, and that assistance shall be made available
39 to community college districts upon request.

1 (d) Each participating community college district shall give
2 priority registration for enrollment in the pilot program to students
3 with an associate degree in nursing from that community college
4 district.

5 (e) (1) The Legislative Analyst's Office shall conduct an
6 evaluation of the pilot program to determine the effectiveness of
7 the program and the need to continue or expand the program. The
8 evaluation shall include, but is not limited to, all of the following:

9 (A) How many, and which specific, community college districts
10 applied for the pilot program.

11 (B) The number of pilot programs implemented, including
12 information identifying the number of enrollments and degree
13 recipients.

14 (C) Which of the selected community college districts developed
15 a pilot program in an underserved nursing area.

16 (D) Which community college districts were selected to
17 participate in the pilot program and why they were selected.

18 (E) The pilot program costs and the funding sources that were
19 used to finance each of the pilot programs.

20 (F) The cost charged to students, including tuition and any
21 additional fees.

22 (G) The extent to which instruction was provided in person or
23 online.

24 (H) Current completion rates, if available, for each cohort of
25 students participating in a pilot program.

26 (I) Time-to-degree rates and completion rates for each pilot
27 program.

28 (J) The extent to which each pilot program established pursuant
29 to this article is in compliance with the requirements of this article.

30 (K) Other factors to consider when expanding bachelor of
31 science in nursing opportunities across the state.

32 (L) Recommendations on whether and how the authorization
33 establishing the pilot program should be extended.

34 (2) Each participating community college district shall submit
35 the information necessary for the evaluation conducted pursuant
36 to paragraph (1), as determined by the Legislative Analyst's Office,
37 to the chancellor's office. The chancellor's office shall provide
38 the information received from the participating community college
39 districts to the Legislative Analyst's Office upon request.

1 (3) *The results of the evaluation shall be submitted to the*
2 *Legislature, in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government*
3 *Code, on or before July 1, 2033.*

4 (f) *Article 3 (commencing with Section 78040) does not apply*
5 *to a Bachelor of Science in Nursing offered pursuant to this article.*

6 (g) *For purposes of this section, “underserved nursing area”*
7 *means a registered nurse shortage area designated at a high-,*
8 *medium-, or low-severity level as identified by the Department of*
9 *Health Care Access and Information.*

10 (h) *This article shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2035,*
11 *and as of that date is repealed.*

12 ~~SECTION 1. It is the intent of the Legislature to enact future~~
13 ~~legislation relating to nursing education.~~