

HOUSE No. 2109

By Ms. Grant of Beverly, petition of Mary E. Grant and others for legislation to establish a nursing and allied health workforce development fund within the Board of Higher Education. Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Mary E. Grant
Alice Hanlon Peisch

Christine E. Canavan

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NURSING AND ALLIED HEALTH TRUST FUND.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

- 1 (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law
2 to the contrary, there is hereby established and set up on the books of
3 the Commonwealth a separate trust fund to be known as the Massa-
4 chusetts Nursing and Allied Health Workforce Development Trust
5 Fund, hereinafter referred to as the health care workforce trust fund,
6 to which shall be credited any appropriations, bond proceeds or
7 other monies authorized by the general court and specifically desig-
8 nated to be credited thereto, and additional funds including federal
9 grants or loans, or private donations made available to the chancellor
10 of higher education for this purpose. The board of higher education
11 shall hold the health workforce trust fund in an account or accounts
12 separate from other funds or accounts. Amounts credited to the
13 health care workforce trust fund shall be expended by the chancellor
14 of higher education to carry out the purposes set forth in subsection
15 (b). Any balance in the trust fund at the close of a fiscal year shall be
16 available for expenditure in subsequent fiscal years and shall not
17 revert to the general fund.
- 18 (b) The public purposes of the Massachusetts Nursing and Allied
19 Health Workforce Development Trust Fund shall be to develop and
20 support, in consultation with the Massachusetts Nursing and Allied

21 Health Workforce Development Advisory Committee, short and
22 long-term strategies that increase the number of Massachusetts
23 public and private higher education faculty and students who partici-
24 pate in programs that support careers in fields related to nursing and
25 allied health. The chancellor of higher education may expend from
26 the health care workforce trust fund such administrative monies as
27 may be necessary for the administration of the Massachusetts
28 Nursing and Allied Health Workforce Development Initiative. In
29 furtherance of these public purposes, the chancellor of higher educa-
30 tion shall expend the health care workforce trust fund monies on
31 activities that are calculated to increase the number of qualified
32 nursing and allied health faculty and students in the commonwealth
33 and improve the nursing and allied health educational offerings
34 available in public higher education institutions. Grants and other
35 disbursements and activities may involve, without limitation, the
36 University of Massachusetts, state and community colleges, private
37 higher education institutions in partnership with public higher edu-
38 cation institutions, business and industry partnerships, regional
39 alliances, workforce investment boards, 501(c)(3) organizations and
40 other community groups which promote the nursing profession.
41 Grants and other disbursements and activities may support, without
42 limitation:—

43 (i) the goal of rapidly increasing the number of nurses and allied
44 health workers;

45 (ii) enhancing the role of the system of public higher education, as
46 institutions and in partnerships with other stakeholders, in meeting
47 the short and long-term workforce challenges in the nursing and
48 allied health professions; and

49 (iii) the development and use of innovative curricula, courses,
50 programs and modes of delivering education in nursing and allied
51 health professions for faculty and students in these fields; and

52 (iv) activities with the growing network of stakeholders in the
53 nursing and allied health professions to create, implement, share and
54 make broadly and publicly available best practices and innovative
55 programs relative to instruction, development of partnerships and
56 expanding and maintaining faculty and student involvement in
57 careers in these fields; and

58 (v) strengthening the institutional capacity to develop and imple-
59 ment long-term programs and policies to respond effectively to these
60 challenges.