

**HB 2862 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce Development**

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**Action Date:** 04/13/17

**Action:** Do pass and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference

**Vote:** 8-0-1-0

**Yeas:** 8 - Alonso Leon, Bynum, Heard, Johnson, Reardon, Reschke, Sollman, Whisnant

**Exc:** 1 - Clem

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Appropriates \$350,000 from General Fund to Higher Education Coordinating Commission for Nursing Faculty Loan Repayment Program. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Importance of increasing capacity of nursing education programs to address projected registered nurse shortages
- Inability to increase nursing program capacity because of lack of nurse educators
- State role in incentivizing nurses to become nurse educators
- Acknowledgement that loan repayment assistance program will not resolve pay inequity between nurse educators and nurses working in clinical settings

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Oregon Center for Nursing reports that up to 50 percent of nurse educators are expected to retire by 2025, that 37 percent of qualified nursing program applicants are currently excluded from Oregon undergraduate programs due to an insufficient number of nurse faculty and that Oregon will experience a shortage of approximately 6,000 nurses in all settings by 2025. The shortages in the nursing profession can be attributed, in part, to the difficulty recruiting and retaining nurse faculty due to the high cost of graduate nursing education and the low salaries of nurse educators when compared to nurses working in other settings.

In 2009, the legislature created the Nursing Faculty Loan Repayment Program to help address nursing faculty shortages by providing loan repayments to nurse educators with graduate degrees, incentivizing them to remain in their roles as educators. The program was funded with an initial, one-time allocation of \$200,000, which provided funds to offset school loans for seven nurse educators.

House Bill 2862 appropriates \$350,000 to the Nursing Faculty Loan Repayment Program to offset school loans for an additional ten nurse educators.