

## REPORT OF THE CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

---

DATE: April 15, 2024

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

FROM: Sharon M. Tso   
Chief Legislative Analyst

Council File No: 23-0002-S112  
Assignment No: 24-03-0191

SUBJECT: Resolution (Soto-Martinez – Blumenfield) relative to support for SB 895 (Roth).

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the attached Resolution (Soto-Martinez – Blumenfield) to include in the City's 2023 - 2024 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for SB 895 (Roth), to require the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to develop a Nursing Pilot Program that authorizes select community college districts to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.

### SUMMARY

On March 20, 2024, a Resolution (Soto-Martinez – Blumenfield) was introduced in Council relative to support for SB 895 (Roth). The Resolution states that the State of California has a shortage of registered nurses (RNs), with only 995 RNs per 100,000 people, ranking 40th out of 50 states. In 2010, the National Academy of Medicine recommended that 80 percent of the nurse workforce should have a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) or higher by 2020. In 2021, the California Board of Registered Nursing reported that nearly 64,300 students applied for just 16,600 spots in nursing degree programs.

The Resolution states that private BSN programs have an average tuition of \$130,000; while public BSN programs have an average tuition of approximately \$39,000 which is significantly more affordable. The Resolution contends that California needs to provide more affordable opportunities to obtain a nursing degree to address the Registered Nursing shortage. The Resolution states that SB 895 (Roth) would create an accessible, inexpensive option for obtaining a nursing degree at designated community colleges, leading to the graduation of more credentialed RNs within the State's existing public school system. Therefore, the Resolution requests that the City support SB 895.

### BACKGROUND

The cost of higher education has become more expensive over the last several decades. The prospect of graduating from nursing school without debt or paying loans back quickly seem impossible to many. Nursing school costs range from \$40,000 to \$130,000 for Bachelor of Science degree programs, and graduate programs are even more expensive. According to National Center for Education Statistics, the average student debt is \$16,800 for an associate degree or \$26,100 for a bachelor's degree from a public institution. The cost is even higher if you attend a private institution. As such, many aspiring nurses question the cost of nursing school and whether it is worth pursuing a career in nursing.

According to the UC San Francisco Health Workforce Research Center on Long-Term Care, the shortage of nurses in California is reaching a crisis point. Estimates show California faces a shortage of about 36,000 licensed nurses. Labor advocates say the nursing shortage creates a vicious cycle of nurses on shift doing more work, getting burned out, and fleeing the industry which worsens the issue. “We don’t have enough nurses entering the system...” said Peter Sidhu, a nurse and executive vice president of the United Nurses Associations of California/Union of Health Care Professionals (UNAC/UHCP).

In response to this, Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and the UNAC/UHCP turned their attention to the State’s community college system. These organizations maintain that community colleges offer the most affordable and efficient way to earn a nursing degree. SB 895 by Senator Richard Roth would seek to address this matter by requiring the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to develop a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing Pilot Program at 15 community college districts in order to offer a bachelor of science in nursing degree. The bill also provides that participating districts must be in underserved nursing areas; and the districts must have a nationally accredited nursing program. SB 895 also stipulates class size requirements. The bill would also require the Legislative Analyst’s Office to evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot program. The pilot program would end on Jan. 1, 2031.

#### BILL STATUS

04/11/24	Set for hearing April 24.
04/10/24	April 10 set for second hearing canceled at the request of author.
04/01/24	From committee with author's amendments. Read second time and amended. Rereferred to Committee on Education.
03/14/24	Set for hearing April 10.
03/06/24	April 3 set for first hearing canceled at the request of author.



---

Kimberly A. Tejada  
Analyst

SMT:kat

Attachment: Resolution (Soto-Martinez – Blumenfield)

## RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations, or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal governmental body or agency must first have been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the State of California has a shortage of registered nurses (RNs), with only 995 RNs per 100,000 people, ranking 40th out of 50 states; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, the California Board of Registered Nursing reported that nearly 64,300 students applied for just 16,600 spots in nursing degree programs; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, the National Academy of Medicine recommended that 80 percent of the nurse workforce should have a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) or higher by 2020; and


WHEREAS, in California, public BSN programs have an average tuition price of approximately \$39,000, which is significantly more affordable than private BSN programs, which have an average tuition of \$130,000; and

WHEREAS, California needs to provide more affordable opportunities for obtaining a nursing degree to address the RN shortage; and

WHEREAS, the City should support SB 895 (Roth) to create an accessible, inexpensive option for obtaining a nursing degree at designated community colleges, leading to the graduation of more credentialed RNs within the State's existing public school system;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2023-2024 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for SB 895 (Roth), which would require the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to develop a Nursing Pilot Program that authorizes select community college districts to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.

PRESENTED BY:

  
HUGO SOTO-MARTÍNEZ  
Councilmember, 13th District

SECONDED BY:



etr

MHA

MAR 20 2024

ORIGINAL