

RULES, ELECTIONS, AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT and RESOLUTION relative to including in the City's 2023-24 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.

Recommendation for Council action pursuant to Resolution (Soto-Martinez – Blumenfield), and SUBJECT TO THE CONCURRENCE OF THE MAYOR:

RESOLVE to include in the City's 2023-24 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.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

Summary:

On April 19, 2024, your Committee considered an April 15, 2024 CLA report and Resolution (Soto-Martinez - Blumenfield) relative to including in the City's 2023-24 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. The CLA report was received subsequent to the release of the Committee agenda. According to the CLA, 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. After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to recommend approval of the Resolution. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

COUNCILMEMBER	VOTE
KREKORIAN:	YES
HARRIS-DAWSON:	YES
BLUMENFIELD:	YES

ARL
4/19/24

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-