

Date of Hearing: April 2, 2019

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Jose Medina, Chair

AB 1051 (Smith) – As Introduced February 21, 2019

SUBJECT: Community colleges: temporary faculty members: clinical nursing faculty.

SUMMARY: Authorizes California community college districts (CCDs), to employ temporary faculty members serving as full-time clinical nursing faculty at one CCD for up to four semesters or six quarters indefinitely; requires each CCD that employs these faculty members to report specified information on or before June 30 of each year; and, requires the California Community Colleges (CCC) Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) to report the findings of the CCDs' report on their clinical nursing faculty staffing levels, to the Legislature and the Governor, on or before September 30 of each year.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Defines "faculty" as those employees of CCDs who are employed in academic positions that are not designated as supervisory or management, as specified. Faculty include, but are not limited to, instructors, librarians, counselors, community college health services professionals, handicapped student programs and services professionals, and extended opportunity programs and services professionals (Education Code (EC) Section 87003).
- 2) Authorizes a CCD to employ a temporary faculty member serving as full-time clinical nursing faculty or as part-time clinical nursing faculty for up to four semesters or six quarters within any period of three consecutive academic years between July 1, 2007, and December 31, 2015, inclusive. Requires each CCD that employs temporary clinical nursing faculty to report specified information to the CCCCCO on or before June 30, 2012, and requires the CCCCCO to report specified information to the Legislature and the Governor on or before September 30, 2012 (EC 87482).
- 3) Defines any person who is employed to teach at a CCD for not more than 67% of the hours per week considered a full-time assignment to be a part-time, temporary employee (EC Section 87482.5).

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS: *Background.* Existing law prohibits part-time, temporary faculty from teaching more than 67% of a full-time teaching assignment. This prohibition has resulted in complications for nursing programs due to the required clinical education component. According to the CCCCCO, sponsors of this measure, nursing students must receive hands on experience with real patients in hospitals by performing 12-hour shifts, one to two days per week, for six to 18 weeks. However, nursing instructors must be switched out during mid-clinical rotations once the 67% cap is reached. The CCCCCO contends that the mid-clinical rotation switch can cause inconsistencies in instruction and student evaluation.

To note, Committee Staff understands that finding and retaining qualified nursing faculty is more challenging than other academic areas, thus making the use of part-time nursing faculty critical to CCC nursing programs.

Additionally, the initial exemption for the 67% cap for part-time community college clinical nursing faculty was established in 2006. In 2012, the exemption was extended until 2015, however, the exemption sunset on January 1, 2016.

To note, according to the CCCCCO, per the last issued reports on CCC clinical nursing part-time faculty, during the last four-year period of the exemption, 21 CCCs hired a total of 155 nursing faculty; enabling the colleges to serve an additional 351 students per year thereafter. Community colleges also reported that the exemption allowed them to be more competitive with the private sector in hiring and retaining faculty.

Need for the measure. According to the author, “AB 1051 would reestablish an exemption for part-time community college nursing faculty to exceed the part-time faculty course load cap”.

This measure will permit CCC part-time clinical nursing faculty to not be subject to the 67% teaching cap, in order to provide full-time instruction to CCC nursing students at any one CCD for up to four semesters or six quarters.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**Support**

California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (Sponsor)

Opposition

None on file.

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