

**HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Sec. 1 The Director of Health Care Reform in the Agency of Human Services shall oversee the development of a current health care workforce development strategic plan that continues efforts to ensure that Vermont has the health care workforce necessary to provide care to all Vermont residents. The Director of Health Care Reform will convene Health Care workforce task force and be responsible for convening meetings and for preparing the draft strategic plan, to be updated annually. The Green Mountain Care Board shall review the draft strategic plan and shall approve the final plan and any subsequent modifications.

To develop the strategic plan, the Director of Health Care Reform shall convene a work force task group to develop solutions. The taskforce will consist of no more than six members from the following:

- One member from the Primary Care Advisory Group
- One member from the State Colleges of Vermont
- One member from the AHEC workforce initiative
- One member from the FQHC
- One member from the Vermont Hospital Association
- One member from the Vermont Medical Society

The Health Care Workforce shall be a subgroup of the State Workforce Development Board.

- Re-establish 2012 commission to complete the Blue Ribbon Commission on Nursing no later than 2022 with updated report.

**2. Scholarships for UVMHC students pursuing primary care career track**

Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 33 is added to read: **(Need Update)**

**§ 33. MEDICAL STUDENTS; PRIMARY CARE**

(a)(1) The Area Health Education Centers Program at the University of Vermont College of Medicine (AHEC) shall establish a rural primary care physician scholarship program. The scholarships shall cover the medical school tuition for up to 5-third year and 5-fourth year medical students annually who commit to practicing primary care in a health professional shortage or medically underserved area of this State, as defined by the federal Health Resources and Services Administration. For each school year tuition covered, the student will incur 2 years full-time or 4 years half-time service obligation. The rate for the scholarship shall be set at the in-state tuition rate for all scholarships.

(2) Approved specialties shall be those recognized by the National Health Service Corp at the time of the scholarship award, including family medicine, general pediatrics, general internal medicine, obstetrics-gynecology and general psychiatry.

(3) A scholarship recipient who does not fulfill the commitment to practice primary care in accordance with the award, shall be liable for repayment of the full amount of the scholarship plus interest calculated in accordance with

the formula determined by the National Health Service Corp for failure to complete a service obligation under that program.

(Cost: tuition is currently \$37,070 for in-state students and \$64,170 for out of state students)

### **3. Scholarships for Vermont nursing students**

Add \$1,000,000 of new scholarship funding to the existing Educational Incentives for Nurses (Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 10) program of the Department of Health, administered by VSAC.

Students who are studying for their associate degree leading to an R.N. license and licensed practical nurse (LPN) degrees will be given first preference. Graduation from the program must result in eligibility to sit for the NCLEX-RN or NCLEX-PN examinations. Students studying for a BSN in nursing will next be considered.

- Financial need will also be a priority. Academic performance will be considered in order for the student to complete the academic rigors.

Students who are studying at an accredited school in Vermont will be given first preference. Students attending schools in bordering states will be given preference next.

Conditions: Upon licensure, the nurse must agree to work as a nurse in Vermont for a minimum of one year for each year of scholarship awarded.

Not sure these belong in our House bill.

### **4. Clinical Faculty Requirements for Nursing Education**

- Ease educational requirements for clinical nurse educators to allow Bachelors degree plus relevant experience as an alternative to current Master's degree requirement.

### **6. Minimum age for VTC LNA program**

Discuss with VTC the desire to reduce the minimum age to enter the LNA program from 18 to 17, to encourage high school students (especially dual-enrolled) to enter this program.

