

House Bill 526

By: Representative Hembree of the 67th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 26 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the
2 "Georgia Registered Professional Nurse Practice Act," so as to require the Board of Nursing
3 to provide periodic reports to the General Assembly regarding the state of higher education
4 for nursing with recommendations for the expansion and improvement of nursing education
5 opportunities in the State of Georgia; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting
6 laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Article 1 of Chapter 26 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the "Georgia
10 Registered Professional Nurse Practice Act," is amended by revising Code Section 43-26-2,
11 relating to legislative intent, as follows:

12 "43-26-2.

13 The purpose of this article is to protect, promote, and preserve the public health, safety, and
14 welfare through legislative regulation and control of registered professional nursing
15 education and practice. This article ensures that any person practicing or offering to
16 practice nursing or using the title registered professional nurse, as defined in this article,
17 within the State of Georgia, shall be licensed as provided in this article. This article also
18 recognizes the criticality of ensuring an adequate supply of qualified nurses to meet the
19 needs of the people of the State of Georgia. In furtherance of this important public interest,
20 this article authorizes and requires the Georgia Board of Nursing to gather and periodically
21 report on the state of higher education for nursing to the General Assembly with
22 recommendations for the expansion and improvement of nursing education opportunities
23 for citizens of the State of Georgia."

24 **SECTION 2.**

25 Said article is further amended in Code Section 43-26-5, relating to powers and duties of the
26 Georgia Board of Nursing, by revising paragraph (20) as follows:

27 ~~"(20) Be authorized to~~ Provide the higher education committees of the Senate and House
28 of Representatives with periodic written reports describing the state of higher education
29 for nursing with specific recommendations for the expansion and improvement of nursing
30 education opportunities for citizens of Georgia. The first such report shall be delivered
31 on January 1, 2010, and future reports shall be delivered at five-year intervals from the
32 date of the initial report. To facilitate the preparation of such reports, the board shall
33 collect data regarding existing and potential new nursing resources in available to the
34 citizens of Georgia and coordinate planning for nursing education and nursing practice;"

35 **SECTION 3.**

36 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.