

OTHER DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE - BACKGROUND MEMORANDUM

In addition to various study responsibilities and other duties assigned to the Budget Committee on Health Care for the 2001-02 interim, the committee is also charged with the responsibility to:

- Receive an annual report from the State Board of Nursing on its study, if conducted, of the nursing educational requirements in this state and the nursing shortage in this state and its implications for rural communities, pursuant to North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) Section 43-12.1-08.2.
- Receive a report from the Insurance Commissioner before November 1, 2002, regarding motor vehicle insurance independent medical examinations, pursuant to 2001 Senate Bill No. 2288.

STATE BOARD OF NURSING REPORT

House Bill No. 1360 (attached as Appendix A) creates NDCC Section 43-12.1-08.2, which is effective through September 30, 2006. This section provides that the State Board of Nursing may address issues of supply and demand for nurses, including issues relating to recruitment, retention, and utilization, through:

- Developing a strategic statewide plan to alleviate the nursing shortage in the state by establishing and maintaining a data base on nursing supply and demand in the state.
- Convening various groups representative of nurses, other health care providers, business and industry, consumers, legislators, and educators to review and comment on data analysis prepared for the board; recommending systematic changes; and evaluating and reporting the results of these efforts to the Legislative Assembly and the public.
- Reviewing and studying the nursing educational requirements in this state.
- Studying the nursing shortage in this state and the implications for rural communities.
- Increasing, by up to \$15, license or registration fees imposed by the board to reimburse the board for actual expenses incurred pursuant to this section.
- Applying for, soliciting, accepting, and spending any contribution, grant, or gift made available from public or private sources for the purpose of implementing this section.

- Reporting annually to the Legislative Council on the progress of the study, if undertaken.

The fiscal note prepared by the State Board of Nursing provides that the cost of conducting the nursing needs study will be approximately \$165,000 during the 2001-03 biennium for hiring an administrator and for data collection and analysis. The Legislative Council has assigned to this committee the responsibility to receive annual reports from the State Board of Nursing on the progress of the study, if undertaken.

INSURANCE COMMISSIONER REPORT

Senate Bill No. 2288 (attached as Appendix B) provides that prior to November 1, 2002, the Insurance Commissioner shall submit a report to the Legislative Council regarding motor vehicle insurance independent medical examinations, and the report must include:

- An analysis of the impact independent medical examinations have on the provision of motor vehicle insurance benefits in the state.
- A review of the medical service providers who perform independent medical examinations.
- A review of how other states regulate independent medical examinations.
- Any recommendations of the Insurance Commissioner.

The Legislative Council has assigned to this committee the responsibility to receive the Insurance Commissioner's report.

PROPOSED ACTION PLAN

The following is a proposed action plan the committee may want to consider in fulfilling its duties to receive annual reports from the State Board of Nursing, pursuant to NDCC Section 43-12.1-08.2, and to receive a report from the Insurance Commissioner before November 1, 2002, pursuant to 2001 Senate Bill No. 2288:

1. Receive comments from the State Board of Nursing regarding its plans to conduct the study of nursing educational requirements and the nursing shortage in the state.
2. Receive annual reports from the State Board of Nursing on the progress of its study, if conducted.
3. Receive comments from the Insurance Commissioner regarding the commissioner's plans to conduct the review and analysis relating to motor vehicle insurance

- independent medical examinations, pursuant to Senate Bill No. 2288.
4. Receive a report from the Insurance Commissioner, prior to November 1, 2002, regarding motor vehicle insurance independent medical examinations, pursuant to Senate Bill No. 2288.
 5. Receive information from interested organizations, entities, and individuals regarding the committee's duties to receive annual reports from the State Board of Nursing, pursuant to NDCC Section 43-12.1-08.2, and to receive a report from the Insurance Commissioner before November 1, 2002, pursuant to 2001 Senate Bill No. 2288.
 6. Develop recommendations and related bill drafts regarding the committee's duties to receive annual reports from the State Board of Nursing, pursuant to NDCC Section 43-12.1-08.2, and to receive a report from the Insurance Commissioner before November 1, 2002, pursuant to 2001 Senate Bill No. 2288.
 7. Prepare a final report for submission to the Legislative Council.
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