



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 1268

PRINTERS NO. 1905

PRIME SPONSOR: J. Ward

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2020/21	FY 2021/22
General Fund	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY: Senate Bill 1268, Printer's Number 1905, amends the Nurse Aide Resident Abuse Prevention Training Act to permit individuals hired as nurse aides on a temporary basis during the COVID-19 pandemic to become certified nurse aides and remain employed following the pandemic. This legislation is effective immediately.

ANALYSIS: To address potential staffing shortages at nursing homes and long-term care facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) waived certain training and certification requirements for nurse aides. Pursuant to the federal waiver, the Department of Health authorized an online training, offered at no cost by the American Health Care Association, and an assessment to expedite the hiring of temporary nurse aides. This legislation enables those temporary nurse aides to continue to work, as certified nurse aides, after the expiration of the CMS COVID-19 waiver.

SB 1268 provides that an individual is deemed to have satisfied the state requirements for nurse aide training and competency evaluation and shall be placed on the State nurse aide registry by the Department of Education if they have:

- successfully completed a training program and assessment authorized under the COVID-19 pandemic waiver;
- completed a minimum of 80 hours of supervised on-the-job nurse aide training during the declared COVID-19 emergency; and
- established competency by:
 - successfully completing the state nurse aide examination; or
 - certification through an apprenticeship program; or
 - assessment by the hiring entity.

FISCAL IMPACT: Enactment of this legislation will have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds. The Department of Education has existing processes to place individuals on the State nurse aide registry and any changes related to this legislation should be accommodated within existing resources.

PREPARED BY: Nick McClure
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: November 17, 2020

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.