

**Sixtieth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Wednesday, January 3, 2007**

SENATE BILL NO. 2379
(Senators J. Lee, Krauter, Warner)
(Representatives Delmore, Price, Svedjan)

AN ACT to provide for a nursing education consortium to establish a mobile clinical nursing simulation laboratory; to provide statements of legislative intent; to provide for a report to the legislative council; to provide an appropriation; and to provide a continuing appropriation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. Nursing education consortium - Continuing appropriation.

1. The university of North Dakota college of nursing shall establish and administer a nursing education consortium for the purpose of addressing common concerns in nursing education which produce obstacles in meeting the state's current and future nursing needs, with a focus on the specific needs of rural communities.
2. The consortium membership must include representation of the university of North Dakota college of nursing, the university of North Dakota center for rural health, and the board of nursing. In addition, each nursing program in this state which is approved by the board of nursing and each nursing program with approval pending which is located in this state must be invited to have representation in the consortium. The consortium members may invite interested persons to join the consortium membership or to participate in consortium activities. Interested persons may include the North Dakota nurses association nursing practice council leadership team; North Dakota hospital association; workforce partners, including job service North Dakota, the department of commerce division of workforce development, rural leadership of North Dakota, and the North Dakota workforce development council; employer partners; and other interested public and private parties. The dean of the university of North Dakota college of nursing shall serve as chairman of the consortium from July 1, 2007, through December 31, 2009, during which the dean shall report to the legislative council. After 2009, the chairman must be chosen by the members.
3. If the consortium secures nonstate funds to cover the capital costs of a mobile clinical nursing simulation laboratory program, the consortium may establish a mobile clinical nursing simulation laboratory program to travel the state and provide clinical education for nursing students of nursing education programs in the state and provide clinical education on current and emerging approaches to nursing excellence to medical facility staff.
4. If the consortium establishes a mobile clinical nursing simulation laboratory program, the consortium shall establish a strategic plan for the ongoing activities of the simulation laboratory program, including goals and benchmarks for the implementation of the simulation laboratory program.
5. The consortium may contract with a third party in conducting the duties of the consortium and may seek, receive, and accept from any source aid or contributions of money, property, labor, or other things of value to be held, used, and applied to carry out the purposes of the consortium. Any money received by the consortium as gifts, grants, or donations is appropriated as a continuing appropriation for the purpose of funding the simulation laboratory program and the activities of the consortium.

SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$200,000, or so much of the sum as may

be necessary, to the university of North Dakota for the purpose of funding the costs of a simulation laboratory program under section 1 of this Act, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2007, and ending June 30, 2009.

SECTION 3. STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION - LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the legislative assembly that the state board of higher education establish and implement a policy and procedure for institutions of higher education under the control of the board to participate in systemwide initiatives.

SECTION 4. COMPETITIVE GRANT ELIGIBILITY - LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the legislative assembly that the nursing education consortium apply for public and private grants to assist in financing section 1 of this Act and that state agencies interpret grant application guidelines broadly to allow the nursing education consortium to be eligible to apply for grants.