An act to add Article 9 (commencing with Section 89280) to Chapter 2 of Part 55 of Division 8 of Title 3 of the Education Code, relating to nursing degrees.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AB 867, as introduced, Nava. California State University: Doctor of Nursing Practice degree.

Existing law establishes the California State University and its various campuses under the administration of the Trustees of the California State University. Existing law requires the California State University to offer undergraduate and graduate instruction through the master’s degree in the liberal arts and sciences and professional education, including teacher education.

This bill would authorize the California State University to award the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree. The bill would distinguish the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from research-based doctoral degrees offered at the University of California. The bill would require the programs to be designed to enable professionals to earn the degree while working
full time, train nurses for advanced practice, and prepare faculty to teach in postsecondary nursing programs.

The bill would require initial funding to come from existing budgets, without diminishing the quality of undergraduate programs or reducing enrollment therein.


The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) The State of California faces an ever-increasing nursing shortage that jeopardizes the health and well-being of the state’s citizens.

(b) Colleges and universities need to expand nursing education programs to prepare more nurses to meet the state’s growing demand for nurses. An estimated state shortage of 47,600 registered nurses is expected by 2010, and by 2020 the shortage is projected to reach 116,600 according to the Governor’s California Nurse Education Initiative Annual Report, September 2006.

(c) Well-trained nursing faculty are critical to the ability to expand nursing programs.

SEC. 2. Article 9 (commencing with Section 89280) is added to Chapter 2 of Part 55 of Division 8 of Title 3 of the Education Code, to read:

Article 9. Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree

89280. (a) Notwithstanding Section 66010.4, in order to meet specific nursing education needs in California, the California State University may award the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree, as described in this section.

(b) The authority to award the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree is limited to the discipline of nursing practice. The Doctor of Nursing Practice degree offered by the California State University shall be distinguished from research-based doctoral degrees offered at the University of California.

(c) The Doctor of Nursing Practice degree program offered by the California State University shall train nurses for advanced
nursing practice and prepare faculty to teach in postsecondary
nursing education programs. The degree programs shall be
designed to enable professionals to earn the degree while working
full time.
(d) The California State University shall follow all of the
following requirements:
(1) Funding on a per full-time equivalent student (FTES) basis
for each new student in these degree programs shall be within the
California State University’s enrollment growth levels as agreed
to in the annual Budget Act. Enrollments in these programs shall
not alter the California State University’s ratio of graduate
instruction to total enrollment, and shall not diminish enrollment
growth in university undergraduate programs. Funding provided
from the state for each FTES shall be at the agreed-upon marginal
costs calculation that the California State University receives for
graduate enrollment.
(2) Each student in the programs authorized by this article shall
be charged fees in an amount that is no higher than the rate charged
for students in state-supported doctoral degree programs at the
University of California, including joint programs of the California
State University and the University of California.
(3) The California State University shall provide any initial
funding needed for the programs authorized by this article from
within existing budgets for academic programs support, without
diminishing the quality of program support offered to California
State University undergraduate programs. Funding of these
programs shall not reduce undergraduate enrollments at the
California State University.