

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 515 University of West Florida
SPONSOR(S): Evers and others
TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 1648

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1) <u>Committee on Postsecondary Education</u>	<u>(ref. removed)</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
2) <u>Schools & Learning Council</u>	<u>14 Y, 1 N</u>	<u>Thomas</u>	<u>Cobb</u>
3) <u>Policy & Budget Council</u>	<u></u>	<u>Martin</u>	<u>Hansen</u>
4) <u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
5) <u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

HB 515 authorizes the University of West Florida to implement master of science degree programs in nursing and social work.

Most of the anticipated costs associated with the Master of Science in Nursing program will be absorbed through existing capacity, with remaining costs to be funded through private support and/or reallocations for low-enrollment programs. All of the anticipated costs associated with the Master of Science in Social Work program will be funded within existing capacity.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2007.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. HOUSE PRINCIPLES ANALYSIS:

Provide limited government – The bill authorizes the University of West Florida to offer two new degree programs which may increase the number of employees at the university.

Empower families – The bill authorizes the University of West Florida to offer the master of science degree programs in nursing and social work, which will increase the opportunities for students interested in these areas.

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Background

Section 1004.03(3), F.S., prohibits the establishment of new colleges, schools, or functional equivalents of any program leading to a degree that is offered as a credential for specific license granted under the Florida Statutes or the State Constitution without the specific approval of the Legislature.

Section 464.012,(1)(c) F.S., requires advanced registered nurse practitioners to hold current licensure to practice professional nursing. Certification is required, as provided by rule of the Board of Nursing, in the following categories:

- Certified registered nurse anesthetists;
- Certified nurse midwives; and
- Nurse practitioners.

Section 491.0046, F.S., requires any individual applying for licensure by examination to practice clinical social work in Florida to be provisionally licensed. The Department of Health issues a provisional license to each applicant once they have been certified by the Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy, and Mental Health Counseling (Board). The Board certifies that the applicant has:

- Completed the application form;
- Submitted an application fee; and
- Earned a graduate degree in social work.

Section 491.0145, F.S., authorizes the Department of Health to certify an applicant as a certified master social worker subject to the following:

- Submission of an application to the Department;
- Proof of receipt of a doctoral degree in social work, or a master's degree with a major focus in clinical practice or administration;
- At least three years of experience in practice at an advanced level; and
- An acceptable examination score.

University of West Florida (UWF) New Program Proposal for a Master of Science in Social Work

A shortage exists regarding social workers in the state.¹ The demand for social workers, like other social and human services assistance, as categorized by the AWI, is also expected to outpace supply. In fact, AWI indicates that this category ranks among the most rapidly growing occupations

To address the growing demand, UWF requests expansion of its current bachelor of arts degree program in social work to a masters of science degree program in social work. As support for its request, UWF asserts that this discipline provides considerable diversity in specialization. Fields of practice include health care; including mental health care; children and family services; child welfare

¹ See: <http://www.labormarkertinfo.com/library/pubs/profiles/socialservice.pdf>

services; gerontology; criminal justice; rehabilitative services; developmental disabilities services; and military family services. Each of these areas of practice has a significant presence in the region of west Florida and represents excellent employment opportunities for the students of the University of West Florida.

University of West Florida (UWF) New Program Proposal for a Master of Science in Nursing

According to the Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI), some areas in Florida report current and projected shortages of registered nurses. Researchers cite an aging registered nurse workforce and an inadequate number of nursing graduates as the basis for the short supply.²

The School of Allied Health and Life Sciences at the UWF convened an advisory committee that was staffed by the regional health care community, junior college representatives, and health-related UWF personnel. Over the last year, the committee examined the educational needs of the health care industry, and determined that a master of science in nursing program is greatly needed. Of critical importance, the committee noted, is the need for nurses skilled in geriatric care due to the significant increase in the senior population in northwest Florida. The committee also concluded that an insufficient supply of academic programs is available to accommodate the pool of qualified graduate nursing applicants, due to a lack of faculty. Specific recommendations included an education track, an administration track, and a certificate of Geriatric Nursing. Since its inception in 2001, the bachelor of science degree program in nursing has increased from 24 to 303 students

The UWF Board of Trustees approved the master of science degree programs in both social work and nursing at the board's March 20, 2006 meeting.

The Board of Governors staff has not reviewed the programs proposed by the UWF for inclusion in the State University System's Academic Degree Program Inventory.

Effect of Proposed Changes

HB 515 authorizes the University of West Florida to offer master of science degree programs in nursing and social work.

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Creates s. 1004.386, F.S., authorizing master of science degree programs in nursing and social work at the University of West Florida.

Section 2. Provides an effective date of July 1, 2007.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

See Fiscal Comments.

2. Expenditures:

See Fiscal Comments

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

² See: <http://www.labormarketinfo.com/library/pubs/profiles/nurse.pdf>

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

The University of West Florida's master of science degree programs in nursing and social work will provide greater access to advanced job opportunities and address the critical need areas of social work and nursing.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

For the master of science degree program in nursing, UWF projects first year costs at \$280,661, expected to reach \$463,116 by the fifth year of implementation. This reflects a student population starting at an estimated 15 FTE, increasing to 40 by year five. Most of the costs will be absorbed through existing capacity, with remaining costs to be funded through private support and/or reallocations for low-enrollment programs. Additionally, UWF has received commitments from local and regional hospitals for money to support development of the masters program.

For the master of science degree program in social work, UWF projects a cost of \$815,651 in the first year of implementation, to increase to \$904,266 in the fifth year, reflecting an increase in student FTE from 14 to 56 students. All costs would be funded through existing capacity in the current Department of Social Work.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

This bill does not appear to require a city or county to expend funds or to take any action requiring the expenditure of funds.

The bill does not appear to reduce the authority that municipalities or counties have to raise revenues in the aggregate.

This bill does not appear to reduce the percentage of state tax shared with counties or municipalities.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

The Board of Governors (BOG) asserts that placing an academic program in statute is problematic in that it impedes the university's ability to terminate or change the program. For this reason, the BOG recommends placing authorization of the academic program in proviso language rather than through creation of a new statute.³

D. STATEMENT OF THE SPONSOR

None.

³ Board of Governors Bill Analysis for House Bill 515
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IV. AMENDMENTS/COUNCIL SUBSTITUTE CHANGES