

**SFA**

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Fiscal Agency

• Lansing, Michigan 48909

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Senate Bill 149 (Substitute S-1 as passed by the Senate)

Senate Bill 370 (as passed by the Senate)

Sponsor: Senator Vern Ehlers

Committee: Health Policy

Date Completed: 8-4-89

**RATIONALE**

Practitioners of a variety of health-related occupations currently must be licensed or registered under the Public Health Code before they can practice their chosen health profession. Some health occupations also include either a specialty field or subfield within their scope. A person involved in a specialty field is required to possess advanced education and training beyond what is required for initial licensure, while a subfield requires less comprehensive knowledge and skill than is required to practice the full scope of a health profession. The Code requires that task forces for a health profession specialty field or subfield be established in order to recommend to the profession's licensing board standards of education, training, and experience for certification; qualifications required of applicants for licensure or certification; evaluation of qualifications for initial and continuing licensure of practitioners of a subfield or specialty field; and, guidelines for utilization of and standards of practice for licensees in the subfield or specialty field. Certain task forces dealing with specialties and subfields within the nursing and veterinary medicine professions reportedly have completed their work and have submitted their recommendations to their respective licensing boards. Because these task forces have fulfilled their charges, some people believe that they should be abolished, and that clarification is needed of provisions in the Code concerning the composition of task forces that are retained in the Code, such as those in the field of dentistry, or any other task force that may be

created by the Legislature in the future.

**CONTENT**

The bills would amend the Public Health Code to repeal certain health professions' task forces, increase the membership of the Michigan Board of Nursing, and revise provisions concerning the creation of a subfield task force or specialty task force for a health profession.

**Senate Bill 149 (S-1)**

The bill would amend the Code to:

- Add a nurse midwife, nurse anesthetist, and nurse practitioner as voting members of the Michigan Board of Nursing, which would increase the Board's membership from 14 to 17 members.
- Require that the additional Board members each have a specialty certification, issued by the Department of Public Health in their respective specialty field.
- Repeal provisions on the creation of certain task forces that advise the Michigan Board of Nursing on licensed practical nursing as a subfield of the practice of nursing (MCL 333.17224); advise the Michigan Board of Nursing on specialty certification for a registered professional nurse who had advanced

S.B. 149 &amp; 370 (8-4-89)

training (MCL 333.17225); and, advise the Michigan Board of Veterinary Medicine on the practice of a veterinary technician as a subfield of veterinary medicine (MCL 333.18824).

MCL 333.17221 et al.

### Senate Bill 370

The bill would amend the Code to provide that if a health profession subfield task force or specialty task force were created for a health profession, that task force would serve as the task force for all health profession subfields or specialty fields in that profession. Current law provides that a single task force "shall be created" for all health profession subfields or specialty fields within the scope of a health profession. The bill also would amend provisions on membership of a task force to specify membership if a task force were created. The bill is tie-barred to Senate Bill 149.

MCL 333.16125 and 333.16161

### FISCAL IMPACT

Senate Bill 149 (S-1) would have a fiscal impact of \$4,680 in increased costs to the State and no fiscal impact on local government. The costs for the three additional Board of Nursing members would be as follows: \$50 per diem x 3 members x 12 days = \$1,800 plus \$80 travel expense reimbursement/day x 3 members x 12 days = \$2,880. Senate Bill 370 would have no fiscal impact on State or local government.

### ARGUMENTS

#### Supporting Argument

Certain task forces were established under the Public Health Code in order to advise the Michigan Board of Nursing on licensed practical nursing as a subfield of the practice of nursing and on specialty certification for a registered professional nurse who has advanced training. In addition, a task force was created to advise the Michigan Board of Veterinary Medicine on the practice of a veterinary technician as a subfield of veterinary medicine. Since these task forces have completed their work, there is no need for their existence to be required in the Code.

#### Supporting Argument

The Public Health Code requires that membership of the task force on licensed practical nursing include persons who are licensed practical nurses and a person who is a registered professional nurse. These professions also are represented on the Michigan Board of Nursing. Membership of the task force on specialty certification for a registered professional nurse who has advanced training includes a nurse midwife, a nurse anesthetist, and a nurse practitioner. These professions, however, are not represented on the nursing board. Senate Bill 149 (S-1) would add these professions to the membership of the nursing board in order to guarantee their representation on that board, since the bill would abolish the authority to establish task forces on these nursing professions.

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