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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5892**

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**State of Washington**

**67th Legislature**

**2022 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Health & Long Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Brown, Conway, Honeyford, King, Lovick, Short, Van De Wege, Warnick, Wellman, C. Wilson, J. Wilson, and L. Wilson)

READ FIRST TIME 01/27/22.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing pilot projects for utilizing high  
2 school student nursing assistant-certified programs to address the  
3 nursing workforce shortage and promote nursing careers in rural  
4 hospitals; creating a new section; and providing an expiration date.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The nursing care quality assurance  
7 commission, in collaboration with rural hospitals, nursing assistant-  
8 certified training programs, and the department of labor and  
9 industries, shall establish at least two pilot projects for rural  
10 hospitals to utilize high school students who are training to become  
11 nursing assistant-certified or high school students who are nursing  
12 assistant-certified to help address the workforce shortages and  
13 promote nursing careers in rural hospitals.

14 (2) At least one of the rural hospitals participating in the  
15 pilot projects must be east of the Cascade mountains and at least one  
16 of the rural hospitals participating in the pilot projects must be  
17 west of the Cascade mountains.

18 (3) The pilot projects shall prioritize using the nursing  
19 assistant-certified high school students to their full scope of  
20 practice and identify any barriers to doing this.

1           (4) The nursing care quality assurance commission may contract  
2 with a nursing consultant and a health services consultant to assist  
3 with establishing and supporting the pilot project, including  
4 identifying participants, coordinating with the groups and agencies  
5 as referenced in subsection (1) of this section and other  
6 stakeholders, and preparing reports to the legislature.

7           (5) Beginning December 1, 2023, the nursing care quality  
8 assurance commission shall annually report the status of the pilot  
9 projects and any findings and recommendations to the health care  
10 committees of the legislature.

11           (6) This section expires June 30, 2025.

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