

Date of Hearing: April 28, 2021

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Lorena Gonzalez, Chair

AB 269 (Patterson) – As Introduced January 19, 2021

Policy Committee: Business and Professions Vote: 19 - 0

Urgency: No State Mandated Local Program: No Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill authorizes the Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) to reduce the license renewal fee for a registered nurse (RN), but no less than one-half, if the RN meet specified retirement conditions and only provides services for free or for nominal charges.

FISCAL EFFECT:

Revenue loss of up to \$2.1 million annually to the BRN. Lower license fees would reduce revenue from current fee-payers without any corresponding reduction in workload.

The BRN is projected to bring in nearly \$46 million in licensure renewal revenue in 2021-22, the large majority from biennial RN licensure renewal. Under this bill, BRN would charge a \$90 license renewal fee every two years (instead of \$180) to a licensee who meets certain age and practice qualifications. Currently, the board licenses 45,923 registered nurses who meet the criteria outlined in the bill.

If the BRN lowers the fee to maintain a volunteer-only license, there could be more licensees who choose to maintain such a license and pay the lower fee, which could slightly offset the revenue loss but would also create commensurate workload.

COMMENTS:

Purpose and Background. According to the author, by reducing the fee for retired registered nurses to renew their professional license, the state will be able to continue utilizing the knowledge, skills, and experience of these nurses who wish to volunteer.

This bill would allow for the BRN to reduce fees for a licensee who retires but wishes to maintain their license for purposes of volunteer work. According to the author, there were retired nurses who wished to assist with the COVID-19 pandemic but had lapsed licenses that would have been too difficult to reinstate. The goal of this bill is to provide for a lower fee so nurses who wish to continue to volunteer after retirement can retain limited licenses.

Analysis Prepared by: Lisa Murawski / APPR. / (916) 319-2081