

# Legislative Analysis



## BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING FROM COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Phone: (517) 373-8080  
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

**House Bill 5556 as introduced**  
**Sponsor: Rep. John R. Roth**

Analysis available at  
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

**House Bill 5557 as introduced**  
**Sponsor: Rep. John N. Damoose**

**Committee: Education**  
**Complete to 11-29-21**

### SUMMARY:

House Bills 5556 and 5557 would amend the Community College Act to allow community colleges in Michigan to establish nursing education programs that grant bachelor of science in nursing degrees (BSN).

Currently, many community colleges in the state offer associate degrees in nursing (ADN traditional).<sup>1</sup> Upon successful completion of an ADN, graduates may take the National Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) and become licensed as a registered nurse (RN). (Community colleges also offer certificates in licensed practical nursing (LPNs), whose graduates must take the NCLEX-PN to attain licensure.) Community colleges often have articulation agreements with four-year institutions so that ADN and LPN graduates may transfer and complete additional coursework to complete a BSN.

**House Bill 5556** would provide that the boards of trustees of community colleges could instead establish a nursing program that grants BSNs. However, the board could not eliminate an existing associate degree program at the community college at the time of establishing the BSN unless it demonstrated that there was a lack of student demand for that associate degree.

The community college could not operate the BSN program unless the program met the requirements for nursing education programs in the Public Health Code<sup>2</sup>—namely, that the institution has applied and submitted evidence that it is prepared to carry out the minimum curriculum requirements and any other educational and training standards established by the Michigan Board of Nursing.

Additionally, before and during the offering of a BSN, the community college would have to hold a national professional nursing accreditation, hold candidacy status for that accreditation, or have applied for that accreditation from an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, including the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education or the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, or their successors.

MCL 389.121

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/Approved\\_Programs\\_website\\_list\\_November\\_2016\\_540497\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/Approved_Programs_website_list_November_2016_540497_7.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-333-17241>

**House Bill 5557** is a companion bill that would amend the definition of community college to provide that a qualifying institution could offer a BSN.

MCL 389.105

The bills are tie-barred together, which means that neither could take effect unless both were enacted.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

House Bills 5556 and 5557 would not have a fiscal impact on state government but would have an indeterminate fiscal impact on public community colleges and universities. There would be increased costs to community colleges adding a bachelor of science in nursing program from potential increased staffing, equipment, or space costs to establish and accommodate a nursing program. Some community colleges would face lower costs, as they would simply expand their associate nursing program track instead of establishing a full nursing program from scratch. Community colleges also would face increased costs to get the nursing program accredited from a professional nursing association. Community colleges could see increased enrollment in the new nursing programs, and therefore increased revenues from tuition and fees, but the balance between increased costs and potential increased enrollment and revenues are variable and cannot be calculated at this time.

Additionally, public universities currently offering a bachelor of science in nursing program could see a loss of revenue and enrollment as students switch from public universities to community college nursing programs. This potential decline in enrollment and revenue is also dependent on multiple variables, and a resulting impact cannot be calculated at this time.

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.