

American Legion Auxiliary
New Mexico Girls State
Bill Instruction Sheet



Principal Author: Marisol Lozano

Bill No: _____ Committee: _____

Status:

Passed by: ☐ Committee ☐ House ☐ Senate ☐ Governor

Tabled by: ☐ Committee ☐ House ☐ Senate ☐ Governor

Other: _____

Simple Title of Bill: Bill

1 BILL

2 **70TH SESSION – AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY NEW MEXICO GIRLS STATE – 2017**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4

5

6

7 AN ACT

8 **RELATING TO LABOR; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION; INCREASING THE MINIMUM**

9 **WAGE FOR CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANTS IN THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO**

10

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY NEW

12 MEXICO GIRLS STATE:

13 SECTION 1: The minimum wage for a Certified Nursing Assistant in New Mexico should be

14 raised by a minimum of half of what nurses earn hourly. The rise in pay would increase the

15 number of nursing assistants throughout New Mexico.

1 Subsection 1a: CNA's earn less than a 3% of what nurses make an hour. Nurses do have
2 to go to school longer, but CNA's do the work that nobody else wants. The pressure that is
3 put on a CNA is nowhere near what they deserve, it is not worth the stress of the job. This
4 job includes long hours, the same as a nurse, but with being the nursing assistant you are
5 being the persons arms and legs for less pay. Nursing assistants are not paid enough for
6 what they do. The work of a CNA is literally backbreaking, it includes basic care and
7 assistance in daily activities, but it does not end there. CNA's deal with people who have
8 different needs every single day, they are lucky if a resident is able to be discharged, but
9 they deal with people who they help take care of until the end of life. Even after someone
10 has passed, it is the CNA's duty to perform end of life care. The CNA is the person who is
11 called when a patient needs the restroom or needs to be showered, and much more. The
12 tasks sound easy, but when experienced first hand the skills needed to be a
13 compassionate, understanding, and patient caregiver are beyond anything taught in a
14 classroom. Nursing assistants are not only underpaid but also overworked. The increase in
15 pay would help to increase the amount of CNA's which makes it more likely for more
16 people to be interested in making it a career. Nurses in New Mexico make an average of
17 \$27 an hour, but often in certain settings such as a nursing home, they do way less than a
18 nursing assistant. The pay of a CNA needs to be raised, not only for the employee, but to
19 make the situations they deal with on a daily basis worth it. Often CNA's can go through a
20 "burnout" phase. Which means now not only is the employee underpaid, but they are
21 dealing with medical problems caused by their job. The rise in pay would benefit the
22 workers because they would have time to rest and give themselves a break, which every
23 person needs eventually, especially the CNA's.

24 Section 2. APPROPRIATION- Six thousand dollars (\$6,000) is appropriated from the
25 general fund into the pay for each individual CNA. This would total the yearly

1 salary of a CNA to around thirty-two thousand dollars (\$32,000). Six thousand dollars
2 (\$6,000) should be put into each CNA's yearly salary to total the average salary for a
3 Certified Nursing Assistant to equal half of the yearly salary of a nurse.

4

5 All laws, acts, provisions, or parts of laws contained in the Constitution of the State of New
6 Mexico in conflict with any provision of this act are hereby repealed.

7 Default Start - This section to be used as written.

