

SENATE No. 841

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

An Act relating to training for certified nurses' aides and direct care workers.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 111 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2002 official edition,
2 is hereby amended by inserting after section 4L the following new section:-

3 4M. The Department shall, subject to appropriation, establish a scholarship program for
4 certified nurses' aide and direct care worker training. The department shall establish appropriate
5 guidelines and application criteria for the administration of the program. The scholarships shall
6 cover the full cost of tuition to an approved certified nurses' aide or long-term care direct worker
7 training program, including approved programs providing for cross-training. Funds may also be
8 available to provide adult basic education and English as a second language training for
9 applicants otherwise meeting criteria for the scholarships, as well as pilot training programs
10 using enhanced curricula designed to support increased retention. The department shall, in
11 consultation with the nursing home industry, consumer groups, the department of labor and
12 workforce development, the Commonwealth Corporation, training providers and other
13 appropriate state and local agencies, conduct outreach regarding the availability of such
14 scholarships. The department shall consult with the scholarship program advisory council to

15 review and recommend new training requirements for certified nurses' aides, home health aides
16 and home care workers to improve the quality of the direct care workforce and the quality of care
17 provided in all long-term care settings by developing skill standards, supporting the transition
18 from training to work, improving retention, promoting portability, recognizing career
19 advancement curricula and addressing language and education barriers. The costs for outreach
20 activities shall not exceed 3 per cent of the amount of the program and administrative costs of the
21 program shall not exceed 3 per cent of the amount of the program.