

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to grant programs established to support nursing education and training.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding Subchapter Z-1 to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER Z-1. GRANT PROGRAMS SUPPORTING NURSING EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Sec. 61.9641. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Clinical site" means an acute care or rehabilitation facility, a primary care setting, a long-term care facility, a nursing home, a residential care setting, or any other site identified by the board as providing clinical learning experiences for nursing students.

(2) "Nursing advisory committee" means the nursing advisory committee established under Section 104.0155, Health and Safety Code.

Sec. 61.9642. CLINICAL SITE NURSE PRECEPTOR GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) The board, in consultation with the nursing advisory committee, shall establish and administer a program to award grants to eligible clinical sites to support the use of nurse preceptors in providing clinical training to nursing students.

(b) To be eligible for a grant under this section, a clinical site must:

1 (1) provide clinical training to nursing students
2 through the use of one or more nurse preceptors;

3 (2) comply with any clinical site requirements
4 established by the board; and

5 (3) comply with any other requirements adopted by
6 board rule.

7 Sec. 61.9643. CLINICAL SITE INNOVATION AND COORDINATION
8 PROGRAM. The board shall establish and administer a program to
9 award grants to eligible clinical sites that create and operate
10 innovative pilot programs that will support nursing performed at
11 clinical sites in this state by increasing the number of nurses,
12 improving the working environment for nurses, improving the
13 retention of nurses, addressing workplace safety, and coordinating
14 with other clinical sites any solutions found to address common
15 nursing concerns.

16 Sec. 61.9644. NURSING FACULTY GRANT PROGRAM: PART-TIME
17 POSITIONS. (a) The board shall award grants under a nursing
18 faculty grant program to eligible institutions of higher education
19 to provide funding for qualified nursing staff working at clinical
20 sites who serve as part-time nursing faculty at those institutions.

21 (b) The amount of a grant and the number of grants to be
22 awarded must be based on the total number of nursing staff serving
23 as part-time faculty in institutions of higher education throughout
24 the state in the year for which the grant is awarded.

25 (c) A grant received under this section must be expended to
26 support the applicable nursing faculty positions, including the
27 faculty stipend.

1 (d) An institution of higher education must certify in the
2 grant application the number of unfilled faculty positions to which
3 the application applies and, after a grant is awarded, must certify
4 which of those positions have been filled before receipt of the
5 grant funds.

6 (e) The board shall prescribe the dates for the submission
7 of applications and the award of grants under this section to ensure
8 that a grant recipient has sufficient time to prepare for receipt
9 and effective use of the grant funds before the academic period for
10 which the grant is awarded.

11 (f) Grant amounts are awarded under this section for two
12 consecutive state fiscal years. The board may distribute a grant
13 amount for nursing faculty only on receiving the certification from
14 the institution of higher education that the applicable nurse
15 faculty position has been filled. For each first-year nursing
16 faculty position for which a clinical site receives an initial
17 grant amount in a state fiscal year, the board shall make available
18 an equal grant amount for the subsequent state fiscal year
19 contingent on filling the part-time nursing faculty positions
20 funded by the grant in that second year.

21 Sec. 61.9645. NURSING FACULTY GRANT PROGRAM: CLINICAL
22 TRAINING. (a) The board shall award grants under a nursing faculty
23 grant program to eligible clinical sites to provide funding for
24 qualified nursing faculty of institutions of higher education who
25 seek to obtain additional clinical training by working part-time at
26 a clinical site.

27 (b) The amount of a grant and the number of grants to be

1 awarded must be based on the total number of nursing faculty in
2 institutions of higher education throughout the state in the year
3 for which the grant is awarded.

4 Sec. 61.9646. FUNDS. (a) In consultation with the nursing
5 advisory committee, the board shall allocate funds appropriated for
6 purposes of this subchapter and any other funds received as
7 described by Subsection (b) as the board considers appropriate to
8 further the purposes of this subchapter.

9 (b) In addition to money appropriated by the legislature,
10 the board may solicit, accept, and spend gifts, grants, and
11 donations from any public or private source for the purposes of the
12 grant programs established under this subchapter.

13 Sec. 61.9647. RULES. In consultation with the nursing
14 advisory committee, the board shall adopt rules for the
15 administration of the grant programs established under this
16 subchapter. The rules must include:

17 (1) administrative provisions relating to the
18 awarding of grants under this subchapter, such as:

19 (A) eligibility criteria for clinical sites or
20 institutions of higher education, as applicable;

21 (B) grant application procedures;

22 (C) guidelines relating to grant amounts;

23 (D) procedures for evaluating grant
24 applications; and

25 (E) procedures for monitoring the use of grants;
26 and

27 (2) methods for tracking the effectiveness of grants

1 that:

2 (A) use data reasonably available to the board or
3 the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies; and

4 (B) evaluate transferability and scalability of
5 innovation programs.

6 SECTION 2. (a) As soon as practicable after the effective
7 date of this Act, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
8 shall adopt rules for the implementation and administration of the
9 grant programs required by Subchapter Z-1, Chapter 61, Education
10 Code, as added by this Act. The board may adopt the initial rules in
11 the manner provided by law for emergency rules.

12 (b) Not later than September 1, 2023, the Texas Higher
13 Education Coordinating Board shall establish the grant programs
14 required by Subchapter Z-1, Chapter 61, Education Code, as added by
15 this Act, and shall begin to award grants under those programs not
16 later than January 1, 2024.

17 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
18 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
19 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
20 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
21 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.