

By: Nelson

S.B. No. 132

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to goals and strategies concerning the number of graduates from professional nursing education programs.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 105, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 105.008 to read as follows:

Sec. 105.008. GOALS AND STRATEGIES CONCERNING THE NUMBER OF GRADUATES FROM PROFESSIONAL NURSING PROGRAMS. (a) In this section, "professional nursing program" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.9621, Education Code.

(b) The council, in consultation with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, shall perform an analysis to determine, for each academic year, a target number of graduates from the state's professional nursing programs, goals for increasing the number of graduates from those programs, and the levels of public and private funding needed to achieve the target number and goals. The analysis must include assessments and projections concerning:

(1) the number of registered nurses working in this state and the number of registered nurses needed in this state; and

(2) the number of professional nursing program graduates needed to address any difference between the numbers described by Subdivision (1).

(c) Not later than January 1, 2007, the council shall report

1 to the legislature concerning the results of the analysis under  
2 Subsection (b).

3 (d) The council shall use existing resources to perform  
4 duties imposed under this section.

5 (e) This section expires June 1, 2007.

6 SECTION 2. Subsection (a), Section 61.9623, Education Code,  
7 is amended to read as follows:

8 (a) A grant from the professional nursing shortage  
9 reduction program to a professional nursing program or other entity  
10 involved with a professional nursing program in the preparation of  
11 students for initial licensure as registered nurses must be:

12 (1) expended exclusively on costs related to:

13 (A) enrolling additional students;

14 (B) assuring the recruitment and retention of an  
15 adequate number of qualified faculty, including providing faculty  
16 salaries; ~~or~~

17 (C) encouraging innovation in the recruitment  
18 and retention of students, including the recruitment and retention  
19 of Spanish-speaking and bilingual students; or

20 (D) identifying, developing, or implementing  
21 innovative methods to make the most effective use of limited  
22 professional nursing program faculty, instructional or clinical  
23 space, and other resources, including:

24 (i) sharing administrative or  
25 instructional personnel, facilities, and responsibilities between  
26 two or more professional nursing programs located in the same  
27 region of this state; and

1                    (ii) using preceptors to provide clinical  
2 instruction in order to reduce the number of new faculty needed to  
3 accommodate increased student enrollment in the professional  
4 nursing program;

5                    (2) contingent on the professional nursing program's  
6 having been approved as a professional nursing program by the board  
7 or the Board of Nurse Examiners, as appropriate, by September 1,  
8 2001;

9                    (3) contingent on the professional nursing program's  
10 not being on probation with the Board of Nurse Examiners or other  
11 accrediting body; and

12                    (4) if granted to increase enrollments, contingent on  
13 the professional nursing program's ability to enroll additional  
14 students, including having the necessary classroom space and  
15 clinical slots.

16                    SECTION 3. Section 61.9624, Education Code, is amended to  
17 read as follows:

18                    Sec. 61.9624. ADMINISTRATION. The board shall adopt rules  
19 [~~and regulations~~] for the administration of the professional  
20 nursing shortage reduction program. The board shall grant funds  
21 under Sections 61.9623(a)(1)(A), [and] (B), and (D) in an equitable  
22 manner among the various types of professional nursing programs.  
23 The board shall grant funds under Section 61.6923(a)(1)(C) in a  
24 manner that best promotes innovation in the recruitment and  
25 retention of nursing students, including the recruitment and  
26 retention of Spanish-speaking and bilingual students.

27                    SECTION 4. Subsection (a), Section 61.9626, Education Code,

1 is amended to read as follows:

2 (a) Each institution of higher education that has a  
3 professional nursing program shall submit an annual report to the  
4 board detailing its strategy for increasing the number of students  
5 that graduate from the program prepared for licensure as registered  
6 nurses. The report must include:

7 (1) the capacity of the program, either alone or in  
8 cooperation with one or more other programs, to graduate more  
9 students prepared for licensure as registered nurses; and

10 (2) the resources allocated to increase the number of  
11 students that graduate from the program prepared for licensure as  
12 registered nurses.

13 SECTION 5. Subchapter Z, Chapter 61, Education Code, is  
14 amended by adding Section 61.96261 to read as follows:

15 Sec. 61.96261. STRATEGIES FOR INCREASING GRADUATION RATES.

16 (a) The board shall:

17 (1) identify, develop, and study strategies for  
18 increasing graduation rates from professional nursing programs in  
19 this state; and

20 (2) determine which of those strategies are likely to  
21 be effective.

22 (b) Not later than January 1, 2007, the board shall report  
23 to the legislature concerning the results of the study conducted  
24 under Subsection (a). The report must include the board's  
25 recommendations for implementing effective strategies for  
26 increasing graduation rates from professional nursing programs.

27 (c) The board shall use existing resources to perform duties

1 imposed under this section.

2 (d) This section expires June 1, 2007.

3 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
4 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
5 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
6 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
7 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.