

By: Nelson

S.B. No. 132

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to goals and strategies concerning the number of graduates
3 from professional nursing education programs.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is
6 amended by adding Section 61.0812 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 61.0812. GOALS AND STRATEGIES CONCERNING THE NUMBER OF
8 GRADUATES FROM PROFESSIONAL NURSING PROGRAMS. (a) In this
9 section, "professional nursing program" has the meaning assigned by
10 Section 61.9621.

11 (b) Not later than March 1, 2006, the board, in consultation
12 with the Department of State Health Services, shall develop a model
13 to assist the board in determining for each academic year a target
14 number of graduates from the state's professional nursing programs,
15 goals for increasing the number of graduates from those programs,
16 and the levels of public and private funding needed to achieve the
17 target number and goals. The model must be designed to make both
18 short-term and long-term assessments and projections concerning:

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

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

24 (c) The board shall:

1 (1) identify, develop, and study strategies for
2 increasing graduation rates from professional nursing programs to
3 meet the board's graduation goals, including strategies reported to
4 the board by institutions of higher education under Section
5 61.9626; and

6 (2) determine which of those strategies are likely to
7 be effective.

8 (d) Not later than January 1, 2007, the board shall report
9 to the legislature concerning the completion of the model under
10 Subsection (b) and the results of the study under Subsection (c).
11 The report must include the board's recommendations for
12 implementing effective strategies for increasing graduation rates
13 from professional nursing programs in this state.

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

15 SECTION 2. Section 61.9623(a), Education Code, is amended
16 to read as follows:

17 (a) A grant from the professional nursing shortage
18 reduction program to a professional nursing program or other entity
19 involved with a professional nursing program in the preparation of
20 students for initial licensure as registered nurses must be:

21 (1) expended exclusively on costs related to:

22 (A) enrolling additional students;

23 (B) assuring the retention of an adequate number
24 of qualified faculty, including providing faculty salaries; ~~[or]~~

25 (C) encouraging innovation in the recruitment
26 and retention of students, including the recruitment and retention
27 of Spanish-speaking and bilingual students; or

1 (D) identifying, developing, or implementing
2 innovative methods to make the most effective use of limited
3 professional nursing program faculty, instructional or clinical
4 space, and other resources, including:

5 (i) sharing administrative or
6 instructional personnel, facilities, and responsibilities between
7 two or more professional nursing programs located in the same
8 region of this state; and

9 (ii) providing instruction through a
10 multidisciplinary approach that reduces the number of faculty
11 needed for the professional nursing program;

12 (2) contingent on the professional nursing program's
13 having been approved as a professional nursing program by the board
14 or the Board of Nurse Examiners, as appropriate, by September 1,
15 2001;

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

19 (4) if granted to increase enrollments, contingent on
20 the professional nursing program's ability to enroll additional
21 students, including having the necessary classroom space and
22 clinical slots.

23 SECTION 3. Section 61.9624, Education Code, is amended to
24 read as follows:

25 Sec. 61.9624. ADMINISTRATION. The board shall adopt rules
26 [~~and regulations~~] for the administration of the professional
27 nursing shortage reduction program. The board shall grant funds

1 under Sections 61.9623(a)(1)(A), ~~[and]~~ (B), and (D) in an equitable
2 manner among the various types of professional nursing programs.
3 The board shall grant funds under Section 61.6923(a)(1)(C) in a
4 manner that best promotes innovation in the recruitment and
5 retention of nursing students, including the recruitment and
6 retention of Spanish-speaking and bilingual students.

7 SECTION 4. Section 61.9626(a), Education Code, is amended
8 to read as follows:

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

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

17 (2) the resources allocated to increase the number of
18 students that graduate from the program prepared for licensure as
19 registered nurses.

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