

1-1 By: Nelson S.B. No. 132
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed December 22, 2004; February 1, 2005,
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Education;
1-4 April 21, 2005, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 5, Nays 0; April 21, 2005,
1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 132 By: West

1-8 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-9 AN ACT

1-10 relating to goals and strategies concerning the number of graduates
1-11 from professional nursing education programs.

1-12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-13 SECTION 1. Chapter 105, Health and Safety Code, is amended
1-14 by adding Section 105.008 to read as follows:

1-15 Sec. 105.008. GOALS AND STRATEGIES CONCERNING THE NUMBER OF
1-16 GRADUATES FROM PROFESSIONAL NURSING PROGRAMS. (a) In this
1-17 section, "professional nursing program" has the meaning assigned by
1-18 Section 61.9621, Education Code.

1-19 (b) The council, in consultation with the Texas Higher
1-20 Education Coordinating Board, shall perform an analysis to
1-21 determine, for each academic year, a target number of graduates
1-22 from the state's professional nursing programs, goals for
1-23 increasing the number of graduates from those programs, and the
1-24 levels of public and private funding needed to achieve the target
1-25 number and goals. The analysis must include assessments and
1-26 projections concerning:

1-27 (1) the number of registered nurses working in this
1-28 state and the number of registered nurses needed in this state; and

1-29 (2) the number of professional nursing program
1-30 graduates needed to address any difference between the numbers
1-31 described by Subdivision (1).

1-32 (c) Not later than January 1, 2007, the council shall report
1-33 to the legislature concerning the results of the analysis under
1-34 Subsection (b).

1-35 (d) The council shall use existing resources to perform
1-36 duties imposed under this section.

1-37 (e) This section expires June 1, 2007.

1-38 SECTION 2. Subsection (a), Section 61.9623, Education Code,
1-39 is amended to read as follows:

1-40 (a) A grant from the professional nursing shortage
1-41 reduction program to a professional nursing program or other entity
1-42 involved with a professional nursing program in the preparation of
1-43 students for initial licensure as registered nurses must be:

1-44 (1) expended exclusively on costs related to:

1-45 (A) enrolling additional students;

1-46 (B) assuring the recruitment and retention of an
1-47 adequate number of qualified faculty, including providing faculty
1-48 salaries; ~~or~~

1-49 (C) encouraging innovation in the recruitment
1-50 and retention of students, including the recruitment and retention
1-51 of Spanish-speaking and bilingual students; or

1-52 (D) identifying, developing, or implementing
1-53 innovative methods to make the most effective use of limited
1-54 professional nursing program faculty, instructional or clinical
1-55 space, and other resources, including:

1-56 (i) sharing administrative or
1-57 instructional personnel, facilities, and responsibilities between
1-58 two or more professional nursing programs located in the same
1-59 region of this state; and

1-60 (ii) using preceptors to provide clinical
1-61 instruction in order to reduce the number of new faculty needed to
1-62 accommodate increased student enrollment in the professional
1-63 nursing program;

2-1 (2) contingent on the professional nursing program's
2-2 having been approved as a professional nursing program by the board
2-3 or the Board of Nurse Examiners, as appropriate, by September 1,
2-4 2001;

2-5 (3) contingent on the professional nursing program's
2-6 not being on probation with the Board of Nurse Examiners or other
2-7 accrediting body; and

2-8 (4) if granted to increase enrollments, contingent on
2-9 the professional nursing program's ability to enroll additional
2-10 students, including having the necessary classroom space and
2-11 clinical slots.

2-12 SECTION 3. Section 61.9624, Education Code, is amended to
2-13 read as follows:

2-14 Sec. 61.9624. ADMINISTRATION. The board shall adopt rules
2-15 [~~and regulations~~] for the administration of the professional
2-16 nursing shortage reduction program. The board shall grant funds
2-17 under Sections 61.9623(a)(1)(A), [~~and~~] (B), and (D) in an equitable
2-18 manner among the various types of professional nursing programs.
2-19 The board shall grant funds under Section 61.6923(a)(1)(C) in a
2-20 manner that best promotes innovation in the recruitment and
2-21 retention of nursing students, including the recruitment and
2-22 retention of Spanish-speaking and bilingual students.

2-23 SECTION 4. Subsection (a), Section 61.9626, Education Code,
2-24 is amended to read as follows:

2-25 (a) Each institution of higher education that has a
2-26 professional nursing program shall submit an annual report to the
2-27 board detailing its strategy for increasing the number of students
2-28 that graduate from the program prepared for licensure as registered
2-29 nurses. The report must include:

2-30 (1) the capacity of the program, either alone or in
2-31 cooperation with one or more other programs, to graduate more
2-32 students prepared for licensure as registered nurses; and

2-33 (2) the resources allocated to increase the number of
2-34 students that graduate from the program prepared for licensure as
2-35 registered nurses.

2-36 SECTION 5. Subchapter Z, Chapter 61, Education Code, is
2-37 amended by adding Section 61.96261 to read as follows:

2-38 Sec. 61.96261. STRATEGIES FOR INCREASING GRADUATION RATES.

2-39 (a) The board shall:

2-40 (1) identify, develop, and study strategies for
2-41 increasing graduation rates from professional nursing programs in
2-42 this state; and

2-43 (2) determine which of those strategies are likely to
2-44 be effective.

2-45 (b) Not later than January 1, 2007, the board shall report
2-46 to the legislature concerning the results of the study conducted
2-47 under Subsection (a). The report must include the board's
2-48 recommendations for implementing effective strategies for
2-49 increasing graduation rates from professional nursing programs.

2-50 (c) The board shall use existing resources to perform duties
2-51 imposed under this section.

2-52 (d) This section expires June 1, 2007.

2-53 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2-54 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2-55 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-56 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-57 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.

2-58 * * * * *