

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD**

**Austin, Texas**

**FISCAL NOTE, 79TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION**

**May 19, 2005**

**TO:** Honorable Geanie Morrison, Chair, House Committee on Higher Education

**FROM:** John S. O'Brien, Deputy Director, Legislative Budget Board

**IN RE: SB132** by Nelson (Relating to goals and strategies concerning the number of graduates from professional nursing education programs.), **Committee Report 2nd House, As Amended**

**No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.**

The bill would provide tuition exemptions for undergraduate students who are residents of Texas, in an institution of higher education if they are the child of a person who is either employed or contracted to be part of the faculty or staff of a professional nursing program at an institution of higher education in the state.

The bill also provides the exemption for paying \$500 of the total amount of tuition for a resident of this state enrolled as a student at the institution who is a registered nurse and is serving under a written preceptor agreement with an undergraduate professional nursing program for the semester or other academic term for which the exemption is sought or a child of a registered nurse with a preceptor agreement.

The bill provides for nursing faculty enhancement grants to professional nursing programs in the education, recruitment, and retention of sufficient number of faculty to enable programs to enroll a sufficient number of students to meet the state's need for registered nurses.

The bill would provide eligible professional nursing program faculty members with low-interest home mortgage loans.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) could absorb the costs associated with preparing rules and admission forms and of distributing funds through the nursing faculty enhancement program to institutions. THECB estimates that the loss of tuition revenue through tuition waivers and tuition reductions would have minimal impact on Texas higher education institutions.

**Local Government Impact**

No fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

**Source Agencies:** 332 Department of Housing and Community Affairs, 352 Bond Review Board, 507 Board of Nurse Examiners, 710 Texas A&M University System Administrative and General Offices, 720 The University of Texas System Administration, 758 Board of Regents, Texas State University System Central Office, 768 Texas Tech University System Administration, 769 University of North Texas System Administration, 781 Higher Education Coordinating Board, 783 University of Houston System Administration

**LBB Staff:** JOB, CT, RT, GO