

By: Howard of Travis

H.B. No. 3443

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the Texas hospital-based nursing education partnership grant program.

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

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

SUBCHAPTER EE. TEXAS HOSPITAL-BASED NURSING EDUCATION

PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROGRAM

Sec. 61.9751. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Hospital-based nursing education partnership" means a partnership that:

(A) consists of one or more hospitals in this state that are not owned, maintained, or operated by the federal or state government or an agency of the federal or state government and one or more nursing education programs in this state; and

(B) serves to increase graduation rates for each nursing education program in the partnership.

(2) "Nursing education program" means an undergraduate professional nursing program or a graduate professional nursing program as those terms are defined by Section 54.221.

Sec. 61.9752. PROGRAM: ESTABLISHMENT; ADMINISTRATION; PURPOSE. (a) The Texas hospital-based nursing education partnership grant program is established.

1 (b) The board shall administer the program in accordance
2 with this subchapter and rules adopted under this subchapter.

3 (c) Under the program, the board shall make grants to
4 hospital-based nursing education partnerships to assist those
5 partnerships to meet the state's needs for registered nurses by
6 increasing the number of nursing education program graduates
7 through innovative instruction through collaboration between
8 hospitals and nursing education programs and the use of the
9 existing expertise and facilities of those hospitals and programs.

10 Sec. 61.9753. GRANTS: CONDITIONS; LIMITATIONS. (a) The
11 board may make a grant under this subchapter to a hospital-based
12 nursing education partnership only if the board determines that:

13 (1) the partnership will meet applicable board and
14 Board of Nurse Examiners standards for instruction and student
15 competency for the associate, bachelor of science, or master of
16 science nursing degree granted by each nursing education program
17 participating in the partnership;

18 (2) each nursing education program participating in
19 the partnership will, as a result of the partnership, enroll in the
20 nursing education program a sufficient number of additional
21 students as established by the board;

22 (3) the marginal cost to the state of producing a
23 graduate of a nursing education program participating in the
24 partnership will be comparable, as determined under criteria
25 established by board rule, to the marginal cost to the state of
26 producing a graduate of a nursing education program not
27 participating in a partnership;

1 (4) each hospital participating in a partnership with
2 a nursing education program will provide to students enrolled in
3 the program clinical placements that:

4 (A) allow the students to take part in providing
5 or to observe, as appropriate, medical services offered by the
6 hospital; and

7 (B) meet the clinical education needs of the
8 students; and

9 (5) the partnership will satisfy any other requirement
10 established by board rule.

11 (b) In establishing the cost-comparison criteria under
12 Subsection (a)(3), the board shall exclude reasonable development
13 and initial implementation costs for the infrastructure necessary
14 to support a hospital-based nursing education partnership.

15 (c) A grant under this subchapter may be spent only on
16 costs related to the development or operation of a hospital-based
17 nursing education partnership that:

18 (1) prepares a student to earn an associate or
19 bachelor of science degree in nursing and to achieve initial
20 licensure as a registered nurse, including by providing an
21 accelerated program to prepare a student to earn a bachelor of
22 science degree in nursing;

23 (2) prepares a student to earn a master of science
24 degree in nursing with a concentration in education; or

25 (3) provides an articulation program providing for
26 advancement from an associate degree to a bachelor of science
27 degree in nursing or to a master of science degree in nursing with a

1 concentration in education.

2 (d) A hospital-based nursing education partnership shall
3 return to the board money granted to the partnership under this
4 subchapter that the partnership does not spend on eligible costs
5 under Subsection (c). As the board determines appropriate to best
6 achieve the purposes of these programs, the board may:

7 (1) use the money to make grants to other
8 hospital-based nursing education partnerships;

9 (2) use the money to make grants under the
10 professional nursing shortage reduction program established under
11 Subchapter Z; or

12 (3) transfer the money to the permanent fund for
13 higher education nursing, allied health, and other health-related
14 programs established under Subchapter C, Chapter 63, for use in
15 making grants under that subchapter.

16 Sec. 61.9754. PRIORITY FOR FUNDING. In awarding a grant
17 under this subchapter, the board shall give priority to a
18 hospital-based nursing education partnership that submits a
19 proposal that:

20 (1) provides for collaborative educational models
21 between one or more participating hospitals and one or more
22 participating nursing education programs that have signed a
23 memorandum of understanding or other written agreement under which
24 the participants agree to comply with standards established by the
25 board, including any standards the board may establish that:

26 (A) provide for program management that offers a
27 centralized decision-making process allowing for inclusion of each

1 entity participating in the partnership;

2 (B) provide for access to clinical training
3 positions for students in nursing education programs that are not
4 participating in the partnership; and

5 (C) specify the details of any requirement
6 relating to a student in a nursing education program participating
7 in the partnership being employed after graduation in a hospital
8 participating in the partnership, including any details relating to
9 the employment of students who do not complete the program, are not
10 offered a nursing position at the hospital, or choose to pursue
11 other employment;

12 (2) includes a demonstrable education model to:

13 (A) increase the number of students enrolled in,
14 the number of students graduating from, and the number of nursing
15 faculty employed by each nursing education program participating in
16 the partnership; and

17 (B) improve student retention in each nursing
18 education program;

19 (3) indicates the availability of money to match all
20 or a portion of the grant money, including matching money from a
21 hospital, private or nonprofit entity, or institution of higher
22 education;

23 (4) can be replicated by other hospital-based nursing
24 education partnerships or nursing education programs; and

25 (5) includes plans for sustainability of the
26 partnership beyond the end of the grant period.

27 Sec. 61.9755. GRANTS, GIFTS, AND DONATIONS. In addition to

1 money appropriated by the legislature, the board may solicit,
2 receive, and spend grants, gifts, and donations from any public or
3 private source for the purposes of this subchapter.

4 Sec. 61.9756. RULES. The board shall adopt rules for the
5 administration of the Texas hospital-based nursing education
6 partnership grant program. The rules must include:

7 (1) provisions relating to applying for a grant under
8 this subchapter; and

9 (2) standards of accountability to be met by any
10 hospital-based nursing education partnership awarded a grant under
11 this subchapter.

12 Sec. 61.9757. APPROVAL AS NURSING EDUCATION PILOT PROGRAM.
13 The board and the Board of Nurse Examiners shall establish a single
14 application process under which a hospital-based nursing education
15 partnership may apply both for approval as a pilot program under
16 Section 301.1605, Occupations Code, and for a grant under this
17 subchapter.

18 Sec. 61.9758. ANNUAL REPORT. Each hospital-based nursing
19 education partnership that receives a grant under this subchapter
20 shall submit to the board an annual report that includes
21 information required by board rule, including information
22 concerning the extent to which during the reporting period the
23 partnership has complied with accountability standards established
24 by the board.

25 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date
26 of this Act, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall
27 adopt rules for the implementation and administration of the Texas

1 hospital-based nursing education partnership grant program
2 established under Subchapter EE, Chapter 61, Education Code, as
3 added by this Act.

4 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
5 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
6 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
7 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
8 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.