

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 the number of students enrolled in and 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

1 partnership grant program is established.

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

4 (c) Under the program, to the extent funds are available  
5 under Section 61.9755, the board shall make grants to  
6 hospital-based nursing education partnerships to assist those  
7 partnerships to meet the state's needs for registered nurses by  
8 increasing the number of nursing education program graduates  
9 through innovative instruction through collaboration between  
10 hospitals and nursing education programs and the use of the  
11 existing expertise and facilities of those hospitals and programs.

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

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

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

24 (3) the marginal cost to the state of producing a  
25 graduate of a nursing education program participating in the  
26 partnership will be comparable, as determined under criteria  
27 established by board rule, to the marginal cost to the state of

1 producing a graduate of a nursing education program not  
2 participating in a partnership;

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

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

9 (B) meet the clinical education needs of the  
10 students; and

11 (5) the partnership will satisfy any other requirement  
12 established by board rule.

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

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

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

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

27 (3) provides an articulation program providing for

1 advancement from an associate degree to a bachelor of science  
2 degree in nursing or to a master of science degree in nursing with a  
3 concentration in education.

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

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

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

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

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

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

1           (A) provide for program management that offers a  
2 centralized decision-making process allowing for inclusion of each  
3 entity participating in the partnership;

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

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

14           (2) includes a demonstrable education model to:

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

19           (B) improve student retention in each nursing  
20 education program;

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

25           (4) provides for completion of a class admitted under  
26 this project to be funded by all members of the partnership if the  
27 funded project ends before the class graduation date;

1           (5) can be replicated by other hospital-based nursing  
2 education partnerships or nursing education programs; and

3           (6) includes plans for sustainability of the  
4 partnership beyond the grant period.

5           Sec. 61.9755. GRANTS, GIFTS, AND DONATIONS. In addition to  
6 money appropriated by the legislature, the board may solicit,  
7 receive, and spend grants, gifts, and donations from any public or  
8 private source for the purposes of this subchapter.

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

12           (1) provisions relating to applying for a grant under  
13 this subchapter; and

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

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

23           Sec. 61.9758. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS. (a) Each  
24 hospital-based nursing education partnership that receives a grant  
25 under this subchapter shall submit to the board narrative and  
26 financial reports that include information concerning the extent to  
27 which during the reporting period the partnership has complied with

1 accountability standards established by the board.

2 (b) Not later than December 31 of each even-numbered year,  
3 the board shall submit a report to the governor, lieutenant  
4 governor, and speaker of the house of representatives. The report  
5 shall include a list and description of partnerships created under  
6 this subchapter and the number of new nursing student enrollees.

7 Sec. 61.9759. ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS. A reasonable amount,  
8 not to exceed three percent, of any money appropriated for purposes  
9 of this subchapter may be used to pay the costs of administering  
10 this subchapter.

11 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date  
12 of this Act, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall  
13 adopt rules for the implementation and administration of the Texas  
14 hospital-based nursing education partnership grant program  
15 established under Subchapter EE, Chapter 61, Education Code, as  
16 added by this Act. The board may adopt the initial rules in the  
17 manner provided by law for emergency rules.

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

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3443 was passed by the House on May 11, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 134, Nays 6, 2 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 3443 on May 25, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 140, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3443 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 23, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

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Governor