

By: Howard of Travis

H.B. No. 3443

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the creation of the Texas Hospital-Based Nursing
3 Education Partnership Grant Program.

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

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

7 SUBCHAPTER EE. TEXAS HOSPITAL-BASED NURSING EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP
8 GRANT PROGRAM

9 Sec. 61.9750. PURPOSE. The purpose of this chapter is to
10 establish the Texas Hospital-Based Nursing Education Partnership
11 Grant Program to increase the number of nurses in Texas by fostering
12 innovation through partnership models, leveraging existing
13 expertise and infrastructure in both practice and academia, and
14 expanding nursing education.

15 Sec. 61.9751. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

16 (1) "Board" means the Texas Higher Education
17 Coordinating Board.

18 (2) "Hospital" means a hospital that is not owned or
19 operated by the federal government or the state.

20 (3) "Institution of higher education" means a public
21 junior college, public senior college or university, medical or
22 dental unit, public state college, or other agency of higher
23 education as defined in Chapter 61, Title 3, Education Code.

24 Sec. 61.9752. PROGRAM. A hospital-based nursing education

1 partnership program is established. The board shall administer the
2 hospital-based nursing education partnership program to make
3 grants to hospitals partnering with an accredited nursing education
4 program or programs at an institution or institutions of higher
5 education. The program shall support collaborative instructional
6 models between hospitals and institutions of higher education.

7 Sec. 61.9753. GRANTS. (a) A grant from the hospital-based
8 nursing education partnership program:

9 (1) must be expended on costs related to the
10 development and operation of:

11 (A) a nursing education program that leads to
12 initial licensure as a registered nurse and confers an associate
13 degree or bachelor of science degree in nursing; or

14 (B) a bridge program for associate degree to
15 bachelor of science degree in nursing or to master of science degree
16 in nursing with concentration in education; or bachelor of science
17 to master of science degree in nursing with concentration in
18 education; or

19 (C) an accelerated bachelor of science in nursing
20 degree program; and

21 (2) is contingent on the hospital-based nursing
22 education partnership program having been approved by the board and
23 the Board of Nurse Examiners.

24 (b) If granted to a hospital partnering with an institution
25 of higher education, the funding is contingent on the institution
26 of higher education enrolling additional students; and

27 (c) Funds not expended on the costs described by Subsection

1 (a)(1) shall be returned to the board for distribution to:

2 (1) other applicants under the hospital-based nursing
3 education partnership program; or

4 (2) through the Professional Nursing Shortage
5 Reduction Program or Nursing Innovation Grant Program.

6 Sec. 61.9754. PRIORITY FOR FUNDING. In awarding money for
7 the program under this subchapter, priority shall be given to
8 proposals that:

9 (1) are collaborative education models between any
10 combination of hospitals and institutions of higher education in
11 this state;

12 (2) have a demonstrable education model to:

13 (A) increase the number of licensed nurses and
14 nursing faculty, and

15 (B) improve student retention.

16 (3) are matched with other available funds, including
17 funds from a hospital, private or nonprofit entity, or institution
18 of higher education.

19 Sec. 61.9755. ADMINISTRATION. The board shall adopt rules
20 and regulations for the administration of the hospital-based
21 nursing education partnership grant program.

22 Sec. 61.9756. ANNUAL REPORT. (a) Each hospital that
23 receives funding shall submit an annual report. The report must
24 include accountability measures as established by the board.

25 (b) The board may adopt rules to implement this section.

26 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
27 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as

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1 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
3 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.