

By: Nelson

S.B. No. 31

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation and administration of the rural physician training scholarship 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. RURAL PHYSICIAN TRAINING SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Sec. 61.9801. SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM. In accordance with this subchapter and board rules, the board shall establish and administer a program to award scholarships to medical students who agree to complete their clinical medical education in rural medically underserved areas of this state.

Sec. 61.9802. ELIGIBILITY. To be eligible to receive a scholarship under this subchapter, a student must:

(1) apply to the board;

(2) be enrolled at a medical school of a public or private institution of higher education in this state in a physician training program designed specifically to prepare students to meet the health care needs of rural medically underserved areas of this state; and

(3) enter into an agreement with the board as provided by Section 61.9803.

Sec. 61.9803. AGREEMENT REQUIREMENTS. (a) To qualify for a scholarship under this section, a person must enter into a written

1 agreement with the board as provided by this section. The agreement  
2 must:

3 (1) specify the conditions the person must satisfy to  
4 receive the scholarship award;

5 (2) require the person to complete at least three  
6 years of clinical medical training in a rural physician training  
7 program at a medical school of a public or private institution of  
8 higher education in this state designed specifically to prepare  
9 students to meet the health care needs of rural medically  
10 underserved areas of this state;

11 (3) provide that any scholarship award the person  
12 receives under this subchapter constitutes a loan until the person  
13 completes the three years of required training and satisfies other  
14 applicable conditions of the agreement; and

15 (4) require the person to sign a promissory note  
16 acknowledging the conditional nature of the scholarship award  
17 received and promising to repay the amount of that assistance plus  
18 applicable interest and reasonable collection costs if the person  
19 does not satisfy the applicable conditions.

20 (b) The board shall determine the terms of the promissory  
21 note required by Subsection (a)(4). To the extent practicable, the  
22 terms must be the same as those applicable to state or federally  
23 guaranteed student loans made at the same time.

24 Sec. 61.9804. GRANTS, GIFTS, AND DONATIONS. In addition to  
25 funds appropriated by the legislature, the board may solicit and  
26 accept grants, gifts, and donations from any public or private  
27 source for the purposes of this subchapter.

1       Sec. 61.9805. RULES. (a) The board shall adopt rules  
2 necessary to administer this subchapter.

3       (b) The board shall distribute to each medical school of a  
4 public or private institution of higher education in this state a  
5 copy of the rules adopted under this section.

6       SECTION 2. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board  
7 shall adopt rules for the rural physician training scholarship  
8 program under Subchapter EE, Chapter 61, Education Code, as added  
9 by this Act, not later than December 31, 2007.

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