

AN ACT

relating to promoting the retention and graduation of students enrolled in professional nursing programs.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 61.0901 to read as follows:

Sec. 61.0901. INCENTIVES TO PROMOTE RETENTION AND GRADUATION OF NURSING STUDENTS. (a) In this section, "professional nursing program" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.9621.

(b) The board shall consider and develop methods to promote the retention and graduation of students enrolled in a professional nursing program and shall adopt rules to implement those methods the board considers feasible, including recommendations on financial aid.

(c) The board by rule shall establish a program to recognize a professional nursing program that achieves a graduation rate of 85 percent or more.

SECTION 2. Not later than December 1, 2007, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall adopt the rules required by Subsection (c), Section 61.0901, Education Code, as added by this Act.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 138 passed the Senate on March 14, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 138 passed the House on May 17, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 143, Nays 0, two present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor