

By: Nelson

S.B. No. 138

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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.