

By: Nelson

S.B. No. 198

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the recognition of hospitals with outstanding nursing programs and a listing of hospital nursing staff information.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter E, Chapter 241, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Sections 241.106 and 241.107 to read as follows:

Sec. 241.106. RECOGNITION OF OUTSTANDING HOSPITAL NURSING PROGRAMS. (a) The department shall establish a program to annually recognize hospitals with outstanding nursing programs.

(b) The criteria the department uses in determining whether a hospital's nursing program is eligible for recognition may include a hospital's:

(1) record of attracting and retaining nurses;

(2) implementation of an orientation program for nurses;

(3) implementation of a system to evaluate and address patient, physician, or nurse concerns relating to the quality of nursing practices and care;

(4) demonstration of concern for the health and workplace safety of nurses;

(5) inclusion of a chief nursing officer as a participating member of the hospital's executive team;

(6) demonstrated opportunities for professional

1 development and advancement of nursing staff;

2 (7) recognition of individuals who exemplify
3 excellence in nursing; and

4 (8) implementation of policies and procedures adopted
5 to address nursing staff complaints.

6 (c) A copy of the criteria used under Subsection (b) must be
7 made available on the department's Internet website and to a
8 hospital on request.

9 (d) The department shall recognize a hospital with an
10 outstanding nursing program by awarding a certificate and placing
11 the hospital's name on the department's Internet website.

12 Sec. 241.107. LISTING OF HOSPITAL NURSING STAFF
13 INFORMATION. (a) The department shall create and maintain on its
14 Internet website a list of the information contained in each report
15 submitted under Subsection (b).

16 (b) A hospital may, but is not required to, annually report
17 to the department the following information for the calendar year
18 preceding the report:

19 (1) the name and location of the hospital;

20 (2) the average, maximum, and minimum number of:

21 (A) registered nurses on the hospital's staff;

22 (B) vocational nurses on the hospital's staff;

23 and

24 (C) advanced practice nurses on the hospital's
25 staff;

26 (3) the nurse-to-patient ratio;

27 (4) the average number of years of nursing experience

1 of the hospital's nursing staff; and

2 (5) other nursing staff information specified by the
3 department.

4 (c) The report must be in the form prescribed by the
5 department.

6 (d) The executive commissioner of the Health and Human
7 Services Commission shall adopt rules necessary to implement this
8 section.

9 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.