

By: Nelson

S.B. No. 289

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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AN ACT

relating to the use of professional nursing shortage reduction program grants to encourage clinical nursing instruction by part-time faculty at public or private institutions of higher education.

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

SECTION 1. Subsection (a), Section 61.9623, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) A grant from the professional nursing shortage reduction program to a professional nursing program or other entity involved with a professional nursing program in the preparation of students for initial licensure as registered nurses must be:

(1) expended exclusively on costs related to:

(A) enrolling additional students;

(B) nursing faculty enhancement in accordance with Section 61.96231;

(C) encouraging innovation in the recruitment and retention of students, including the recruitment and retention of Spanish-speaking and bilingual students; or

(D) identifying, developing, or implementing innovative methods to make the most effective use of limited professional nursing program faculty, instructional or clinical space, and other resources, including:

(i) sharing administrative or

1 instructional personnel, facilities, and responsibilities between
2 two or more professional nursing programs located in the same
3 region of this state; and

4 (ii) using preceptors or part-time faculty
5 to provide clinical instruction in order to address the need for
6 qualified [~~reduce the number of new~~] faculty [~~needed~~] to
7 accommodate increased student enrollment in the professional
8 nursing program;

9 (2) contingent on the professional nursing program's
10 having been approved as a professional nursing program by the board
11 or the Board of Nurse Examiners, as appropriate, by September 1,
12 2001;

13 (3) contingent on the professional nursing program's
14 not being on probation with the Board of Nurse Examiners or other
15 accrediting body; and

16 (4) if granted to increase enrollments, contingent on
17 the professional nursing program's ability to enroll additional
18 students, including having the necessary classroom space and
19 clinical slots.

20 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
21 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
22 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
23 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
24 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.