

By: Nelson

S.B. No. 365

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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AN ACT

relating to the creation and implementation of the health professional education grant program.

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

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

SUBCHAPTER FF. HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM

Sec. 61.9781. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "eligible health professional education program" means:

(1) an accredited physician residency training program;

(2) an accredited professional nursing program that prepares students for initial licensure as registered nurses;

(3) an accredited vocational nursing program that prepares students for licensure as licensed vocational nurses;

(4) an accredited advanced nurse practitioner program leading to registration with the Board of Nurse Examiners as an advanced nurse practitioner;

(5) an undergraduate or graduate physician assistant program accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant or its successor; or

(6) an accredited undergraduate or graduate allied health program that prepares students to practice as allied health professionals, as defined by 42 U.S.C. Section 295p.

1       Sec. 61.9782. HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION GRANTS;  
2 PURPOSE. (a) The board may award health professional education  
3 grants to eligible health professional education programs at  
4 institutions of higher education to:

5           (1) assist the programs in:

6                   (A) providing new distance learning or  
7 community-based education projects or activities; or

8                   (B) expanding or enhancing existing distance  
9 learning or community-based education projects or activities; and

10           (2) fund other related activities.

11       (b) The board may not award a grant under this section to  
12 replace current funding for an existing distance learning or  
13 community-based education project or activity.

14       Sec. 61.9783. USE OF GRANT. A grant awarded under this  
15 subchapter may be used only for a purpose described by Section  
16 61.9782.

17       Sec. 61.9784. ADVISORY COMMITTEE. The board may appoint an  
18 advisory committee to advise the board on successful strategies for  
19 assisting eligible health professional education programs in  
20 providing, expanding, or enhancing distance learning or  
21 community-based education projects or activities.

22       Sec. 61.9785. ANNUAL REPORTS. (a) At the end of each  
23 academic year for which an eligible health professional education  
24 program is awarded a grant under this subchapter and in the form the  
25 board requires, the program shall provide to the board a written  
26 report regarding the use of the grant.

27       (b) Not later than October 31 of each year, the board shall

1 provide to the governor and the legislature a written report  
2 consolidated from the reports submitted to the board under  
3 Subsection (a).

4 SECTION 2. Beginning with the 2008-2009 academic year, the  
5 Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall award grants under  
6 the health professional education grant program created under  
7 Subchapter FF, Chapter 61, Education Code, as added by this Act.

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