

By: Nelson

S.B. No. 365

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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

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

(4) 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.

Sec. 61.9782. HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION GRANTS; PURPOSE. (a) The board may award health professional education grants to eligible health professional education programs at public or private institutions of higher education in this state to:

1           (1) assist the programs in:

2                   (A) providing new distance learning or  
3 community-based education projects or activities; or

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

6           (2) fund other related activities.

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

10           Sec. 61.9783. USE OF GRANT. A grant awarded under this  
11 subchapter may be used only for a purpose described by Section  
12 61.9782.

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

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

23           (b) Not later than October 31 of each year, the board shall  
24 provide to the governor and the legislature a written report  
25 consolidated from the reports submitted to the board under  
26 Subsection (a).

27           SECTION 2. Beginning with the 2008-2009 academic year, the

1 Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall award grants under  
2 the health professional education grant program created under  
3 Subchapter FF, Chapter 61, Education Code, as added by this Act.

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