

By: Nelson

S.B. No. 992

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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AN ACT

relating to the use of money from the permanent fund for health-related programs to provide grants to nursing education programs.

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

SECTION 1. Subsections (f) and (g), Section 63.202, Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(f) Notwithstanding the limitation provided by Subsection (b), grants awarded under Subsection (c) for the state fiscal biennium ending on August 31, 2009 [~~2005~~], and the fiscal biennium ending on August 31, 2011 [~~2007~~], by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall be awarded to programs preparing students for initial licensure as registered nurses or programs preparing qualified faculty members with a master's or doctoral degree for the program, including programs at two-year institutions of higher education, four-year general academic teaching institutions, health science centers, and independent or private institutions of higher education. In awarding grants under this subsection, the coordinating board may:

(1) give priority to institutions proposing to address the shortage of registered nurses by promoting innovation in education, recruitment, and retention of nursing students and qualified faculty;

(2) award grants on a competitive basis; and

1           (3) consider the availability of matching funds.

2           (g) Subsection (f) and this subsection expire September 1,  
3 2011 [2007].

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