

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 1860

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to a pilot project regarding funding for professional
3 nursing education programs offered by general academic teaching
4 institutions and health-related institutions.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 61.0592 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 61.0592. PILOT PROJECT REGARDING FUNDING FOR
9 PROFESSIONAL NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAMS. (a) The board shall
10 develop and implement a pilot project in which the board, with
11 respect to appropriations recommendations for the 2010-2011 state
12 fiscal biennium for the professional nursing education programs
13 that are offered by general academic teaching institutions that
14 elect to participate in the project, uses:

15 (1) funding formulas, other than mission-specific
16 funding formulas, that to the extent practicable are based solely
17 on elements that are the same as the elements of the general and
18 supplemental funding formulas used to make appropriations
19 recommendations for professional nursing programs offered by
20 health-related institutions; and

21 (2) percentages for dividing money among the
22 professional nursing education program formulas applicable to a
23 general academic teaching institution that to the extent
24 practicable are the same as the percentages for dividing money

1 among the formulas for professional nursing education programs
2 offered by health-related institutions.

3 (b) For purposes of Subsection (a)(1), elements of funding
4 formulas are comparable if they contain the same weights, models,
5 scales, or rates, as applicable.

6 (c) The board shall require a general academic teaching
7 institution that elects to participate in the pilot project to:

8 (1) maintain a clinical faculty-to-student ratio in
9 the institution's professional nursing education program of not
10 more than 13 to 1, if the applicable faculty member will be the only
11 person officially responsible for the clinical group; and

12 (2) not later than December 1, 2012, submit a report to
13 the board regarding:

14 (A) any effects of the funding and
15 faculty-to-student ratios provided under the pilot project on the
16 institution's professional nursing education programs, including
17 the number of:

18 (i) students admitted to or graduating from
19 the programs; and

20 (ii) faculty, clinical preceptors, or
21 clinical teaching assistants in the education programs; and

22 (B) any other related information the board
23 considers appropriate.

24 (d) Any increase in a clinical faculty-to-student ratio in
25 accordance with this section is not a ground for withdrawal of the
26 approval of a professional nursing education program.

27 (e) This section expires December 31, 2012.

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