

By: Zerwas

H.B. No. 2546

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the Texas emergency and trauma care education partnership program.

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

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

SUBCHAPTER GG. TEXAS EMERGENCY AND TRAUMA CARE EDUCATION

PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Sec. 61.9801. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Emergency and trauma care education partnership" means a partnership that:

(A) consists of one or more hospitals in this state that are not owned, maintained, or operated by the federal or state government or an agency of the federal or state government and one or more nursing or medical education programs in this state; and

(B) serves to increase enrollment and graduation rates for doctors and registered nurses training in emergency and trauma care at participating medical and nursing education programs.

(2) "Participating education program" means an undergraduate professional nursing program or graduate professional nursing program as those terms are defined by Section 54.221 or a professional program leading to a degree required for licensure as a doctor of medicine or osteopathy that participates

1 in an emergency and trauma care education partnership.

2 Sec. 61.9802. PROGRAM: ESTABLISHMENT; ADMINISTRATION;  
3 PURPOSE. (a) The Texas emergency and trauma care education  
4 partnership program is established.

5 (b) The board shall administer the program in accordance  
6 with this subchapter and rules adopted under this subchapter.

7 (c) Under the program, to the extent funds are available  
8 under Section 61.9805, the board shall make grants to emergency and  
9 trauma care education partnerships to assist those partnerships to  
10 meet the state's needs for doctors and registered nurses with  
11 training in emergency and trauma care by offering two-year  
12 residency fellowships to students enrolled in nursing or medical  
13 education programs with a focus in the area of family medicine  
14 through collaboration between hospitals and nursing or medical  
15 education programs and the use of the existing expertise and  
16 facilities of those hospitals and programs.

17 Sec. 61.9803. GRANTS: CONDITIONS; LIMITATIONS. (a) The  
18 board may make a grant under this subchapter to an emergency and  
19 trauma care education partnership only if the board determines  
20 that:

21 (1) the partnership will meet applicable standards for  
22 instruction and student competency for each degree granted by each  
23 participating education program;

24 (2) each participating education program will, as a  
25 result of the partnership, enroll in the education program a  
26 sufficient number of additional students as established by the  
27 board;

1           (3) the marginal cost to the state of producing a  
2 graduate of a participating education program will be comparable,  
3 as determined under criteria established by board rule, to the  
4 marginal cost to the state of producing a comparable graduate of a  
5 nursing or medical education program not participating in a  
6 partnership;

7           (4) each hospital participating in an emergency and  
8 trauma care education partnership will provide to students enrolled  
9 in a participating education program clinical placements that:

10           (A) allow the students to take part in providing  
11 or to observe, as appropriate, emergency and trauma care services  
12 offered by the hospital; and

13           (B) meet the clinical education needs of the  
14 students; and

15           (5) the partnership will satisfy any other requirement  
16 established by board rule.

17           (b) In establishing the cost-comparison criteria under  
18 Subsection (a)(3), the board shall exclude reasonable development  
19 and initial implementation costs for the infrastructure necessary  
20 to support an emergency and trauma care education partnership.

21           (c) A grant under this subchapter may be spent only on  
22 costs related to the development or operation of an emergency and  
23 trauma care education partnership that prepares a student to earn  
24 an associate or bachelor of science degree in nursing and to achieve  
25 initial licensure as a registered nurse or a professional degree  
26 leading to licensure as a doctor of medicine or osteopathy.

27           (d) An emergency and trauma care education partnership

1 shall return to the board money granted to the partnership under  
2 this subchapter that the partnership does not spend on eligible  
3 costs under Subsection (c). As the board determines appropriate to  
4 best achieve the purposes of these programs, the board may:

5 (1) use the money to make grants to other emergency and  
6 trauma care education partnerships;

7 (2) use the money to make grants under the  
8 professional nursing shortage reduction program established under  
9 Subchapter Z; or

10 (3) transfer the money to the permanent fund for  
11 higher education nursing, allied health, and other health-related  
12 programs established under Subchapter C, Chapter 63, for use in  
13 making grants under that subchapter.

14 Sec. 61.9804. PRIORITY FOR FUNDING. In awarding a grant  
15 under this subchapter, the board shall give priority to an  
16 emergency and trauma care education partnership that submits a  
17 proposal that:

18 (1) provides for collaborative educational models  
19 between one or more participating hospitals and one or more  
20 participating education programs that have signed a memorandum of  
21 understanding or other written agreement under which the  
22 participants agree to comply with standards established by the  
23 board, including any standards the board may establish that:

24 (A) provide for program management that offers a  
25 centralized decision-making process allowing for inclusion of each  
26 entity participating in the partnership;

27 (B) provide for access to clinical training

positions for students in nursing and medical education programs that are not participating in the partnership; and

(C) specify the details of any requirement relating to a student in a participating education program being employed after graduation in a hospital participating in the partnership, including any details relating to the employment of students who do not complete the program, are not offered a position at the hospital, or choose to pursue other employment;

(2) includes a demonstrable education model to:

(A) increase the number of students enrolled in, the number of students graduating from, and the number of faculty employed by each participating education program; and

(B) improve student retention in each participating education program;

(3) indicates the availability of money to match all or a portion of the grant money, including matching money from a hospital, private or nonprofit entity, or institution of higher education;

(4) can be replicated by other emergency and trauma care education partnerships or other nursing or medical education programs; and

(5) includes plans for sustainability of the partnership.

Sec. 61.9805. GRANTS, GIFTS, AND DONATIONS. In addition to money appropriated by the legislature, the board may solicit, accept, and spend grants, gifts, and donations from any public or private source for the purposes of this subchapter.

1       Sec. 61.9806. RULES. The board shall adopt rules for the  
2 administration of the Texas emergency and trauma care education  
3 partnership program. The rules must include:

4           (1) provisions relating to applying for a grant under  
5 this subchapter; and

6           (2) standards of accountability to be met by any  
7 emergency and trauma care education partnership awarded a grant  
8 under this subchapter.

9       Sec. 61.9807. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS. (a) Each emergency  
10 and trauma care education partnership that receives a grant under  
11 this subchapter shall submit to the board narrative and financial  
12 reports that include information concerning the extent to which  
13 during the reporting period the partnership has complied with  
14 accountability standards established by the board.

15           (b) Not later than December 31 of each even-numbered year,  
16 the board shall submit a report to the governor, lieutenant  
17 governor, and speaker of the house of representatives. The report  
18 shall include a list and description of partnerships created under  
19 this subchapter and the number of new nursing and medical student  
20 enrollees.

21       Sec. 61.9808. ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS. A reasonable amount,  
22 not to exceed three percent, of any money appropriated for purposes  
23 of this subchapter may be used to pay the costs of administering  
24 this subchapter.

25       SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date  
26 of this Act, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall  
27 adopt rules for the implementation and administration of the Texas

1 emergency and trauma care education partnership program  
2 established under Subchapter GG, Chapter 61, Education Code, as  
3 added by this Act. The board may adopt the initial rules in the  
4 manner provided by law for emergency rules.

5       SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
6 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
7 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
8 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
9 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.