

By: Nelson

S.B. No. 793

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to incentives to recruit and retain allied health education program faculty.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 54, Education Code, is amended by adding Sections 54.225 and 54.226 to read as follows:

Sec. 54.225. CHILDREN OF ALLIED HEALTH PROGRAM FACULTY.

(a) In this section:

(1) "Allied health profession" means the profession practiced by allied health professionals, as defined by 42 U.S.C. Section 295p, except the term does not include acupuncture.

(2) "Child" means a child 25 years of age or younger and includes an adopted child.

(3) "Graduate allied health program" means a master's or doctoral degree program in an allied health profession that is accredited by an accrediting entity recognized by the United States Department of Education.

(4) "Undergraduate allied health program" means an undergraduate degree or certificate program that:

(A) prepares students for initial licensure, certification, or registration in an allied health profession; and

(B) is accredited by an accrediting entity recognized by the United States Department of Education.

(b) The governing board of an institution of higher

1 education shall, contingent on appropriations of money for the
2 exemptions, exempt from the payment of tuition a resident of this
3 state enrolled as an undergraduate student at the institution who
4 is a child of a person who, at the beginning of the semester or other
5 academic term for which the exemption is sought:

6 (1) holds a master's or doctoral degree in an allied
7 health profession, if employed or under contract to serve in a
8 position other than as a teaching assistant under Subdivision (2),
9 or holds a baccalaureate degree in an allied health profession, if
10 employed or under contract to serve as a teaching assistant under
11 Subdivision (2); and

12 (2) meets either of the following requirements:

13 (A) is employed by the institution as a full-time
14 member of the faculty or staff of an undergraduate or graduate
15 allied health program with duties that include teaching, serving as
16 a teaching assistant, performing research, serving as an
17 administrator, or performing other professional services; or

18 (B) has contracted with the institution to serve
19 as a full-time member of the faculty or staff of an undergraduate or
20 graduate allied health program to perform duties described by
21 Paragraph (A) during all or part of the semester or other academic
22 term for which an exemption is sought or, if the child is enrolled
23 for a summer session, during all or part of that session or for the
24 next academic year.

25 (c) A child who would qualify for an exemption under this
26 section but for the fact that the child's parent is not employed
27 full-time is eligible for an exemption on a pro rata basis equal to

1 the percentage of full-time employment the parent is employed,
2 except that a parent employed for less than 25 percent of full-time
3 employment is considered to be employed for 25 percent of full-time
4 employment.

5 (d) A person is not eligible for an exemption under this
6 section if the person:

7 (1) has previously received an exemption under this
8 section for 10 semesters or summer sessions at any institution or
9 institutions of higher education; or

10 (2) has received a baccalaureate degree.

11 (e) For purposes of Subsection (d), a summer session that is
12 less than nine weeks in duration is considered one-half of a summer
13 session.

14 (f) The tuition exemption provided by this section applies
15 only to enrollment of a child at the institution at which the
16 child's parent is employed or is under contract.

17 (g) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall
18 adopt:

19 (1) rules governing the granting or denial of an
20 exemption under this section, including rules relating to the
21 determination of eligibility for an exemption; and

22 (2) a uniform application form for an exemption under
23 this section.

24 Sec. 54.226. PRECEPTORS FOR ALLIED HEALTH PROGRAMS. (a) In
25 this section, "allied health profession," "child," and
26 "undergraduate allied health program" have the meanings assigned by
27 Section 54.225.

1 (b) The governing board of an institution of higher
2 education shall exempt a person from the payment of \$500 of the
3 total amount of tuition otherwise charged to a resident of this
4 state if the person is enrolled as a student at the institution and:

5 (1) holds a license, certificate, or registration in
6 an allied health profession; and

7 (2) is serving under a written preceptor agreement
8 with an undergraduate allied health program as a clinical preceptor
9 for students enrolled in the program for the semester or other
10 academic term for which the exemption is sought.

11 (c) The governing board of an institution of higher
12 education shall exempt a person from the payment of \$500 of the
13 total amount of tuition otherwise charged to a resident of this
14 state if the person is enrolled as an undergraduate student at the
15 institution and is a child of a person who meets the requirements of
16 Subsections (b)(1) and (2).

17 (d) Notwithstanding Subsections (b) and (c), if a person
18 eligible for an exemption under this section owes less than \$500 in
19 tuition, the governing board of the institution of higher education
20 in which the person is enrolled shall exempt the person from the
21 payment of only the amount of tuition the person owes.

22 (e) A person is not eligible for an exemption under
23 Subsection (c) if the person:

24 (1) has previously received an exemption under this
25 section for 10 semesters or summer sessions at any institution or
26 institutions of higher education; or

27 (2) has received a baccalaureate degree.

1 (f) For purposes of Subsection (e), a summer session that is
2 less than nine weeks in duration is considered one-half of a summer
3 session.

4 (g) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall
5 adopt:

6 (1) rules governing the granting or denial of an
7 exemption under this section, including rules relating to the
8 determination of eligibility for an exemption; and

9 (2) a uniform application form for an exemption under
10 this section.

11 SECTION 2. Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding
12 Subchapter GG to read as follows:

13 SUBCHAPTER GG. ALLIED HEALTH FACULTY ENHANCEMENT GRANTS

14 Sec. 61.9781. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

15 (1) "Allied health profession" has the meaning
16 assigned by Section 54.225.

17 (2) "Allied health program" means a degree or
18 certificate program of a public or private institution of higher
19 education in this state that:

20 (A) prepares students for initial licensure,
21 certification, or registration in an allied health profession; and

22 (B) is accredited by an accrediting entity
23 recognized by the United States Department of Education.

24 Sec. 61.9782. ALLIED HEALTH FACULTY ENHANCEMENT GRANTS.
25 The board may, contingent on appropriations of money for the
26 grants, award allied health faculty enhancement grants to allied
27 health programs to assist the programs in the education,

1 recruitment, or retention of faculty members to enable the programs
2 to train students to meet the state's need for health care providers
3 in the allied health professions generally or in specific allied
4 health professions as the board determines appropriate.

5 Sec. 61.9783. USE OF GRANT. A grant awarded under this
6 subchapter may be used only for a purpose specified by Section
7 61.9782, including providing salary supplements and enhancements
8 and reducing the number of hours a faculty member must teach.

9 Sec. 61.9784. MATCHING FUNDS FOR GRANT. In awarding a grant
10 under this subchapter, the board may require the receiving
11 institution to provide matching funds or may give preference in
12 awarding a grant to an institution that provides matching funds.

13 Sec. 61.9785. ADVISORY COMMITTEE. The board may appoint an
14 advisory committee to advise the board on successful strategies, in
15 addition to the grants awarded under this subchapter, for
16 educating, recruiting, or retaining qualified allied health
17 program faculty members who hold master's or doctoral degrees.

18 SECTION 3. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) of this
19 section, Sections 54.225 and 54.226, Education Code, as added by
20 this Act, apply beginning with the 2012 fall semester.

21 (b) Not later than January 1, 2012, the Texas Higher
22 Education Coordinating Board shall adopt rules and forms relating
23 to tuition exemptions under Sections 54.225 and 54.226, Education
24 Code, as added by this Act.

25 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
26 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
27 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this

S.B. No. 793

- 1 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
- 2 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.