

By: Guillen

H.B. No. 2099

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to improving access to nursing education programs.

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

SECTION 1. Section 51.762, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (g-1) to read as follows:

(a) The board, with the assistance of an advisory committee composed of representatives of general academic teaching institutions, junior college districts, public state colleges, and public technical institutes, and with the consultation of all institutions of higher education that admit freshman-level students:

(1) shall adopt by rule:

(A) a common admission application form for use by a person seeking admission as a freshman student to a general academic teaching institution; and

(B) an electronic common admission application form for use by a person seeking admission as a freshman student to an institution of higher education that admits freshman-level students, other than a general academic teaching institution; ~~and~~

(2) shall:

(A) determine whether the adoption of an electronic common admission application form for use by a person seeking admission to an undergraduate nursing education program at

1 an institution of higher education would be cost-effective for
2 nursing schools; and

3 (B) adopt such a form by rule if the adoption is
4 determined under Paragraph (A) to be cost-effective for nursing
5 schools; and

6 (3) may adopt by rule a printed format common
7 admission application form for use by a person seeking admission as
8 a freshman student to an institution of higher education that
9 admits freshman-level students, other than a general academic
10 teaching institution.

11 (g-1) If an electronic common admission application form
12 for use by a person seeking admission to an undergraduate nursing
13 education program at an institution of higher education is adopted
14 under Subsection (a)(2)(B):

15 (1) the board must seek input from representatives of
16 undergraduate nursing education programs at institutions of higher
17 education in prescribing the form; and

18 (2) the form must include a link to information
19 regarding any available scholarship opportunities for
20 undergraduate nursing education degree students offered by
21 institutions of higher education.

22 SECTION 2. Section 61.026, Education Code, is amended to
23 read as follows:

24 Sec. 61.026. COMMITTEES AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES. (a) The
25 chairman may appoint committees from the board's membership as the
26 chairman ~~he~~ or the board may find necessary from time to time.
27 The board may appoint advisory committees from outside its

1 membership as it may deem necessary.

2 **(b) If the board directs an advisory committee to assist the**
3 **board in exercising its authority under Section 61.051(j) regarding**
4 **an off-campus course in nursing education, including clinical**
5 **coursework, the board may require the advisory committee to include**
6 **or consult with one or more career schools or colleges that are**
7 **authorized to offer degrees in this state and are located in the**
8 **area where the course is to be offered. In this subsection, "career**
9 **school or college" has the meaning assigned by Section 132.001.**

10 SECTION 3. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
11 shall make an initial determination regarding whether adopting an
12 electronic common admission application form for undergraduate
13 nursing education programs would be cost-effective as required by
14 Section 51.762, Education Code, as amended by this Act, not later
15 than September 1, 2014.

16 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.