

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

(C) an electronic common admission application form for use by a person seeking admission to a nursing education program at an institution of higher education; and

(2) may adopt by rule a printed format common

1 admission application form for use by a person seeking admission as
2 a freshman student to an institution of higher education that
3 admits freshman-level students, other than a general academic
4 teaching institution.

5 (g-1) The electronic common admission application form for
6 use by a person seeking admission to a nursing education program at
7 an institution of higher education must include a link to
8 information regarding any available scholarship opportunities for
9 nursing education degree students at institutions of higher
10 education.

11 SECTION 2. Section 61.026, Education Code, is amended to
12 read as follows:

13 Sec. 61.026. COMMITTEES AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES. (a) The
14 chairman may appoint committees from the board's membership as the
15 chairman ~~[he]~~ or the board may find necessary from time to time.
16 The board may appoint advisory committees from outside its
17 membership as it may deem necessary.

18 (b) If the board directs an advisory committee to assist the
19 board in exercising its authority under Section 61.051(j) regarding
20 an off-campus course in nursing education, including clinical
21 coursework, the board shall require the advisory committee to
22 include or consult with one or more career schools or colleges that
23 are authorized to offer degrees in this state and are located in the
24 area where the course is to be offered. In this subsection, "career
25 school or college" has the meaning assigned by Section 132.001.

26 SECTION 3. Section 61.5391(b), Education Code, is amended
27 to read as follows:

1 (b) Money in the account may not be appropriated for any
2 purpose except:

3 (1) to provide loan repayment assistance to eligible
4 physicians under this subchapter; or

5 (2) to provide loan repayment assistance under
6 Subchapter L to eligible faculty of professional nursing programs
7 for graduate-level nursing education loans.

8 SECTION 4. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
9 shall adopt an electronic common admission application form for
10 nursing education programs as required by Section 51.762, Education
11 Code, as amended by this Act, not later than September 1, 2014. An
12 institution of higher education must accept applications for
13 nursing education programs using the electronic common admission
14 application form beginning with applicants for admission for the
15 2015-2016 academic year.

16 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.