

1-1 By: Guillen (Senate Sponsor - Hinojosa) H.B. No. 2099  
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 6, 2013;  
1-3 May 7, 2013, read first time and referred to Committee on Higher  
1-4 Education; May 20, 2013, reported adversely, with favorable  
1-5 Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 6, Nays 0;  
1-6 May 20, 2013, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8 Seliger	X			
1-9 Watson	X			
1-10 Birdwell	X			
1-11 Duncan			X	
1-12 Patrick	X			
1-13 West	X			
1-14 Zaffirini	X			
1-15				

1-16 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 2099 By: West

1-17 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to improving access to nursing education programs.  
1-20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:  
1-21 SECTION 1. Sections 51.762(a) and (b), Education Code, are  
1-22 amended to read as follows:

1-23 (a) The board, with the assistance of an advisory committee  
1-24 composed of representatives of general academic teaching  
1-25 institutions, junior college districts, public state colleges, and  
1-26 public technical institutes, and with the consultation of all  
1-27 institutions of higher education that admit freshman-level  
1-28 students:

1-29 (1) shall adopt by rule:

1-30 (A) a common admission application form for use  
1-31 by a person seeking admission as a freshman student to a general  
1-32 academic teaching institution; ~~and~~

1-33 (B) an electronic common admission application  
1-34 form for use by a person seeking admission as a freshman student to  
1-35 an institution of higher education that admits freshman-level  
1-36 students, other than a general academic teaching institution; and

1-37 (C) if the board determines that adoption of the  
1-38 form would be cost-effective for nursing schools, an electronic  
1-39 common admission application form for use by a person seeking  
1-40 admission as a student to an undergraduate nursing education  
1-41 program at an institution of higher education; and

1-42 (2) may adopt by rule a printed format common  
1-43 admission application form for use by a person seeking admission as  
1-44 a freshman student to an institution of higher education that  
1-45 admits freshman-level students, other than a general academic  
1-46 teaching institution.

1-47 (b) The board, with the assistance of an advisory committee  
1-48 composed of representatives of general academic teaching  
1-49 institutions, junior college districts, public state colleges, and  
1-50 public technical institutes, and with the consultation of all  
1-51 institutions of higher education that admit undergraduate transfer  
1-52 students, may adopt by rule:

1-53 (1) a common admission application form for use by a  
1-54 person seeking admission as an undergraduate transfer student to a  
1-55 general academic teaching institution; ~~and~~

1-56 (2) an electronic or printed format common admission  
1-57 application form for use by a person seeking admission as an  
1-58 undergraduate transfer student to an institution of higher  
1-59 education that admits undergraduate transfer students, other than a  
1-60 general academic teaching institution; and

(3) if the board determines that adoption of the form would be cost-effective for nursing schools, an electronic common admission application form for use by a person seeking admission as a transfer student to an undergraduate nursing education program at an institution of higher education.

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

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

(b) If the board directs an advisory committee to assist the board in exercising its authority under Section 61.051(j) regarding an off-campus course in nursing education, including clinical coursework, the board shall require the advisory committee to include or consult with one or more private postsecondary educational institutions or private career schools and colleges in this state that offer degree programs.

SECTION 3. Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding Subchapter II to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER II. NURSING FACULTY LOAN REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Sec. 61.9821. REPAYMENT AUTHORIZED. The board shall establish and administer a program to provide, in accordance with this subchapter and board rules, assistance in the repayment of student loans for nurses who:

(1) are serving on the faculties of nursing degree programs at institutions of higher education or private or independent institutions of higher education in positions that require an advanced degree in professional nursing; and

(2) apply and qualify for the assistance.

Sec. 61.9822. ELIGIBILITY. To be eligible to receive loan repayment assistance under this subchapter, a nurse must:

(1) apply to the board;

(2) at the time of application for repayment assistance have been employed full-time for at least one year as, and be currently employed full-time as, a faculty member of a nursing degree program at an institution of higher education or a private or independent institution of higher education; and

(3) comply with any additional requirements adopted by board rule.

Sec. 61.9823. LIMITATIONS. (a) On qualifying for loan repayment assistance under this subchapter, a nurse may receive repayment assistance for each year of full-time employment as a faculty member of a nursing degree program at an institution of higher education or private or independent institution of higher education, not to exceed five years.

(b) The amount of loan repayment assistance received by a nurse under this subchapter may not exceed \$7,000 in any one year.

(c) The total amount of loan repayment assistance provided under this subchapter may not exceed the total amount of gifts and grants accepted by the board for the repayment assistance and other funds available to the board for the repayment assistance, including any money reallocated under Section 61.9826.

Sec. 61.9824. ELIGIBLE LOANS. (a) The board may provide repayment assistance for the repayment of any student loan for education at any public or private institution of higher education, including a loan for undergraduate education, received by an eligible person through any lender.

(b) The board may not provide repayment assistance for a student loan that is in default at the time of the nurse's application.

Sec. 61.9825. REPAYMENT. (a) The board shall deliver any repayment under this subchapter in a lump sum:

(1) payable to both the lender or other holder of the loan and the nurse; or

(2) directly to the lender or other holder of the loan on the nurse's behalf.

(b) A repayment under this subchapter may be applied to any

amount due in connection with the loan.

Sec. 61.9826. REALLOCATION OF MONEY. (a) In each state fiscal year, the board shall reallocate for loan repayment assistance under this subchapter for a particular year any money in the physician education loan repayment program account established under Section 61.5391 that exceeds the amount necessary in that fiscal year for purposes of repayment assistance under Subchapter J.

(b) Any money reallocated under Subsection (a) in a fiscal year that is not used for loan repayment assistance under this subchapter in that fiscal year is treated as if that unused amount had not been reallocated in that fiscal year.

Sec. 61.9827. GIFTS AND GRANTS. The board may solicit and accept gifts and grants from any source for the purposes of this subchapter.

Sec. 61.9828. RULES. (a) The board shall adopt rules as necessary to administer this subchapter.

(b) The board shall distribute a copy of the rules adopted under this section and pertinent information regarding this subchapter to:

(1) each institution of higher education and private or independent institution of higher education;

(2) any appropriate state agency; and

(3) any appropriate professional association.

SECTION 4. Section 61.5391(b), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

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

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

(2) to provide loan repayment assistance under Subchapter II if reallocated under Section 61.9826.

SECTION 5. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall adopt the rules for loan repayment assistance under Subchapter II, Chapter 61, Education Code, as added by this Act, not later than December 1, 2013.

SECTION 6. Not later than September 1, 2014, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall make an initial determination regarding whether adopting electronic common admission application forms for undergraduate nursing education programs would be cost-effective as required by Sections 51.762(a) and (b), Education Code, as amended by this Act.

SECTION 7. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

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