

1-1 By: Hinojosa S.B. No. 1258
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 6, 2013; March 13, 2013, read
 1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Higher Education;
 1-4 April 29, 2013, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
 1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 5, Nays 0; April 29, 2013,
 1-6 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			

1-16 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1258 By: Zaffirini

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. Subsections (a) and (b), Section 51.762,
 1-22 Education Code, are 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

2-1 (3) if the board determines that adoption of the form
2-2 would be cost-effective for nursing schools, an electronic common
2-3 admission application form for use by a person seeking admission as
2-4 a transfer student to an undergraduate nursing education program at
2-5 an institution of higher education.

2-6 SECTION 2. Section 61.026, Education Code, is amended to
2-7 read as follows:

2-8 Sec. 61.026. COMMITTEES AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES. (a) The
2-9 chairman may appoint committees from the board's membership as the
2-10 chairman [he] or the board may find necessary from time to time.
2-11 The board may appoint advisory committees from outside its
2-12 membership as it may deem necessary.

2-13 (b) If the board directs an advisory committee to assist the
2-14 board in exercising its authority under Section 61.051(j) regarding
2-15 an off-campus course in nursing education, including clinical
2-16 coursework, the board shall require the advisory committee to
2-17 include or consult with one or more for-profit career schools
2-18 offering nursing education courses in the area where the course is
2-19 to be offered.

2-20 SECTION 3. Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding
2-21 Subchapter II to read as follows:

2-22 SUBCHAPTER II. NURSING FACULTY LOAN REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

2-23 Sec. 61.9821. REPAYMENT AUTHORIZED. The board shall
2-24 establish and administer a program to provide, in accordance with
2-25 this subchapter and board rules, assistance in the repayment of
2-26 student loans for nurses who:

2-27 (1) are serving on the faculties of nursing degree
2-28 programs at institutions of higher education or private or
2-29 independent institutions of higher education in positions that
2-30 require an advanced degree in professional nursing; and

2-31 (2) apply and qualify for the assistance.

2-32 Sec. 61.9822. ELIGIBILITY. To be eligible to receive loan
2-33 repayment assistance under this subchapter, a nurse must:

2-34 (1) apply to the board;

2-35 (2) at the time of application for repayment
2-36 assistance have been employed full-time for at least one year as,
2-37 and be currently employed full-time as, a faculty member of a
2-38 nursing degree program at an institution of higher education or a
2-39 private or independent institution of higher education; and

2-40 (3) comply with any additional requirements adopted by
2-41 board rule.

2-42 Sec. 61.9823. LIMITATIONS. (a) On qualifying for loan
2-43 repayment assistance under this subchapter, a nurse may receive
2-44 repayment assistance for each year of full-time employment as a
2-45 faculty member of a nursing degree program at an institution of
2-46 higher education or private or independent institution of higher
2-47 education, not to exceed five years.

2-48 (b) The amount of loan repayment assistance received by a
2-49 nurse under this subchapter may not exceed \$7,000 in any one year.

2-50 (c) The total amount of loan repayment assistance provided
2-51 under this subchapter may not exceed the total amount of gifts and
2-52 grants accepted by the board for the repayment assistance and other
2-53 funds available to the board for the repayment assistance,
2-54 including any money reallocated under Section 61.9826.

2-55 Sec. 61.9824. ELIGIBLE LOANS. (a) The board may provide
2-56 repayment assistance for the repayment of any student loan for
2-57 education at any public or private institution of higher education,
2-58 including a loan for undergraduate education, received by an
2-59 eligible person through any lender.

2-60 (b) The board may not provide repayment assistance for a
2-61 student loan that is in default at the time of the nurse's
2-62 application.

2-63 Sec. 61.9825. REPAYMENT. (a) The board shall deliver any
2-64 repayment under this subchapter in a lump sum:

2-65 (1) payable to both the lender or other holder of the
2-66 loan and the nurse; or

2-67 (2) directly to the lender or other holder of the loan
2-68 on the nurse's behalf.

2-69 (b) A repayment under this subchapter may be applied to any

3-1 amount due in connection with the loan.

3-2 Sec. 61.9826. REALLOCATION OF MONEY. (a) In each state
3-3 fiscal year, the board shall reallocate for loan repayment
3-4 assistance under this subchapter for a particular year any money in
3-5 the physician education loan repayment program account established
3-6 under Section 61.5391 that exceeds the amount necessary in that
3-7 fiscal year for purposes of repayment assistance under Subchapter
3-8 J.

3-9 (b) Any money reallocated under Subsection (a) in a fiscal
3-10 year that is not used for loan repayment assistance under this
3-11 subchapter in that fiscal year is treated as if that unused amount
3-12 had not been reallocated in that fiscal year.

3-13 Sec. 61.9827. GIFTS AND GRANTS. The board may solicit and
3-14 accept gifts and grants from any source for the purposes of this
3-15 subchapter.

3-16 Sec. 61.9828. RULES. (a) The board shall adopt rules as
3-17 necessary to administer this subchapter.

3-18 (b) The board shall distribute a copy of the rules adopted
3-19 under this section and pertinent information regarding this
3-20 subchapter to:

3-21 (1) each institution of higher education and private
3-22 or independent institution of higher education;

3-23 (2) any appropriate state agency; and

3-24 (3) any appropriate professional association.

3-25 SECTION 4. Subsection (b), Section 61.5391, Education Code,
3-26 is amended to read as follows:

3-27 (b) Money in the account may not be appropriated for any
3-28 purpose except:

3-29 (1) to provide loan repayment assistance to eligible
3-30 physicians under this subchapter; or

3-31 (2) to provide loan repayment assistance under
3-32 Subchapter II if reallocated under Section 61.9826.

3-33 SECTION 5. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
3-34 shall adopt the rules for loan repayment assistance under
3-35 Subchapter II, Chapter 61, Education Code, as added by this Act, not
3-36 later than December 1, 2013.

3-37 SECTION 6. Not later than September 1, 2014, the Texas
3-38 Higher Education Coordinating Board shall make an initial
3-39 determination regarding whether adopting electronic common
3-40 admission application forms for undergraduate nursing education
3-41 programs would be cost-effective as required by Subsections (a) and
3-42 (b), Section 51.762, Education Code, as amended by this Act.

3-43 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

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