

By: Howard

H.B. No. 495

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the use of money from the permanent fund for
3 health-related programs to provide grants to nursing education
4 programs.

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

6 SECTION 1. Sections 63.202(f) and (g), Education Code, are
7 amended to read as follows:

8 (f) Notwithstanding the limitation provided by Subsection
9 (b), grants awarded under Subsection (c) for the state fiscal
10 biennium ending on August 31, 2017 [~~2013~~], and the fiscal biennium
11 ending on August 31, 2019 [~~2015~~], by the Texas Higher Education
12 Coordinating Board shall be awarded to programs preparing students
13 for initial licensure as registered nurses or programs preparing
14 qualified faculty members with a master's or doctoral degree for
15 the program, including programs at two-year institutions of higher
16 education, four-year general academic teaching institutions,
17 health science centers, and independent or private institutions of
18 higher education, or to the nursing resource section established
19 under Section 105.002(b), Health and Safety Code. In awarding
20 grants under this subsection, the coordinating board may:

21 (1) give priority to institutions proposing to address
22 the shortage of registered nurses by promoting innovation in
23 education, recruitment, and retention of nursing students and
24 qualified faculty;

- 1 (2) award grants on a competitive basis;
2 (3) consider the availability of matching funds; and
3 (4) fund a study by the nursing resource section to
4 evaluate the competencies of clinical judgment and behaviors that
5 professional nursing students should possess at the time of
6 graduation.

7 (g) Subsection (f) and this subsection expire September 1,
8 2019 [~~2015~~].

9 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
10 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
11 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
12 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
13 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.