

By: Kolkhorst, et al.

S.B. No. 244

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to support for nursing-related postsecondary education
3 including the provision of loan repayment assistance to nursing
4 faculty and the provision of grants to nursing education programs.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section [61.9822](#), Education Code, is amended to
7 read as follows:

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

10 (1) apply to the board;

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

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

19 SECTION 2. Sections [61.9823](#)(a) and (b), Education Code, are
20 amended to read as follows:

21 (a) On qualifying for loan repayment assistance under this
22 subchapter, a nurse may receive repayment assistance for each year
23 of part-time or full-time employment as a faculty member of a
24 nursing degree program at an institution of higher education or

1 private or independent institution of higher education, not to
2 exceed five years.

3 (b) The board by rule shall determine the maximum amount of
4 loan repayment assistance received by a nurse under this subchapter
5 [~~may not exceed \$7,000~~] in any one year. The board shall base the
6 amount of loan repayment assistance received by a nurse for
7 part-time employment on the proportion of the number of hours
8 worked by the nurse to the number of hours worked by a full-time
9 nurse.

10 SECTION 3. Sections 63.202(f) and (g), Education Code, are
11 amended to read as follows:

12 (f) Notwithstanding the limitation provided by Subsection
13 (b), grants awarded under Subsection (c) for the state fiscal
14 biennium ending on August 31, 2025 [~~2021~~], and the fiscal biennium
15 ending on August 31, 2027 [~~2023~~], by the Texas Higher Education
16 Coordinating Board shall be awarded to programs preparing students
17 for initial licensure as registered nurses or programs preparing
18 qualified faculty members with a master's or doctoral degree for
19 the program, including programs at two-year institutions of higher
20 education, four-year general academic teaching institutions,
21 health science centers, and independent or private institutions of
22 higher education, or to the nursing resource section established
23 under Section 105.002(b), Health and Safety Code. In awarding
24 grants under this subsection, the coordinating board may:

25 (1) give priority to institutions proposing to address
26 the shortage of registered nurses by promoting innovation in
27 education, recruitment, and retention of nursing students and

1 qualified faculty;

2 (2) award grants on a competitive basis;

3 (3) consider the availability of matching funds; and

4 (4) fund a study by the nursing resource section to
5 evaluate the competencies of clinical judgment and behaviors that
6 professional nursing students should possess at the time of
7 graduation.

8 (g) Subsection (f) and this subsection expire September 1,
9 2027 [~~2023~~].

10 SECTION 4. (a) As soon as practicable after the effective
11 date of this Act, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
12 shall adopt rules necessary to administer the changes in law made by
13 this Act.

14 (b) The changes in law made by this Act apply beginning with
15 loan repayment assistance awarded under Subchapter JJ, Chapter 61,
16 Education Code, for the 2024-2025 academic year. Loan repayment
17 assistance awarded under Subchapter JJ, Chapter 61, Education Code,
18 for an academic year before the 2024-2025 academic year is governed
19 by the law in effect immediately before the effective date of this
20 Act, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

21 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
22 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
23 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
24 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
25 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.