

1-1 By: Hinojosa S.B. No. 2059  
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 9, 2023; March 21, 2023, read  
 1-3 first time and referred to Subcommittee on Higher Education;  
 1-4 April 24, 2023, reported favorably from Committee on Education by  
 1-5 the following vote: Yeas 11, Nays 1; April 24, 2023, sent to  
 1-6 printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12			X	
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			
1-17	X			
1-18	X			
1-19	X			
1-20		X		
1-21	X			

1-22 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
 1-23 AN ACT

1-24 relating to grant programs established to support nursing education  
 1-25 and training.

1-26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-27 SECTION 1. Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding  
 1-28 Subchapter Z-1 to read as follows:

1-29 SUBCHAPTER Z-1. GRANT PROGRAMS SUPPORTING NURSING EDUCATION AND  
 1-30 TRAINING

1-31 Sec. 61.9641. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

1-32 (1) "Clinical site" means an acute care or  
 1-33 rehabilitation facility, a primary care setting, a long-term care  
 1-34 facility, a nursing home, a residential care setting, or any other  
 1-35 site identified by the board as providing clinical learning  
 1-36 experiences for nursing students.

1-37 (2) "Nursing advisory committee" means the nursing  
 1-38 advisory committee established under Section 104.0155, Health and  
 1-39 Safety Code.

1-40 Sec. 61.9642. CLINICAL SITE NURSE PRECEPTOR GRANT PROGRAM.

1-41 (a) The board, in consultation with the nursing advisory  
 1-42 committee, shall establish and administer a program to award grants  
 1-43 to eligible clinical sites to support the use of nurse preceptors in  
 1-44 providing clinical training to nursing students.

1-45 (b) To be eligible for a grant under this section, a  
 1-46 clinical site must:

1-47 (1) provide clinical training to nursing students  
 1-48 through the use of one or more nurse preceptors;

1-49 (2) comply with any clinical site requirements  
 1-50 established by the board; and

1-51 (3) comply with any other requirements adopted by  
 1-52 board rule.

1-53 Sec. 61.9643. CLINICAL SITE INNOVATION AND COORDINATION  
 1-54 PROGRAM. The board shall establish and administer a program to  
 1-55 award grants to eligible clinical sites that create and operate  
 1-56 innovative pilot programs that will support nursing performed at  
 1-57 clinical sites in this state by increasing the number of nurses,  
 1-58 improving the working environment for nurses, improving the  
 1-59 retention of nurses, addressing workplace safety, and coordinating  
 1-60 with other clinical sites any solutions found to address common  
 1-61 nursing concerns.

2-1 Sec. 61.9644. NURSING FACULTY GRANT PROGRAM: PART-TIME  
 2-2 POSITIONS. (a) The board shall award grants under a nursing  
 2-3 faculty grant program to eligible institutions of higher education  
 2-4 to provide funding for qualified nursing staff working at clinical  
 2-5 sites who serve as part-time nursing faculty at those institutions.

2-6 (b) The amount of a grant and the number of grants to be  
 2-7 awarded must be based on the total number of nursing staff serving  
 2-8 as part-time faculty in institutions of higher education throughout  
 2-9 the state in the year for which the grant is awarded.

2-10 (c) A grant received under this section must be expended to  
 2-11 support the applicable nursing faculty positions, including the  
 2-12 faculty stipend.

2-13 (d) An institution of higher education must certify in the  
 2-14 grant application the number of unfilled faculty positions to which  
 2-15 the application applies and, after a grant is awarded, must certify  
 2-16 which of those positions have been filled before receipt of the  
 2-17 grant funds.

2-18 (e) The board shall prescribe the dates for the submission  
 2-19 of applications and the award of grants under this section to ensure  
 2-20 that a grant recipient has sufficient time to prepare for receipt  
 2-21 and effective use of the grant funds before the academic period for  
 2-22 which the grant is awarded.

2-23 (f) Grant amounts are awarded under this section for two  
 2-24 consecutive state fiscal years. The board may distribute a grant  
 2-25 amount for nursing faculty only on receiving the certification from  
 2-26 the institution of higher education that the applicable nurse  
 2-27 faculty position has been filled. For each first-year nursing  
 2-28 faculty position for which a clinical site receives an initial  
 2-29 grant amount in a state fiscal year, the board shall make available  
 2-30 an equal grant amount for the subsequent state fiscal year  
 2-31 contingent on filling the part-time nursing faculty positions  
 2-32 funded by the grant in that second year.

2-33 Sec. 61.9645. NURSING FACULTY GRANT PROGRAM: CLINICAL  
 2-34 TRAINING. (a) The board shall award grants under a nursing faculty  
 2-35 grant program to eligible clinical sites to provide funding for  
 2-36 qualified nursing faculty of institutions of higher education who  
 2-37 seek to obtain additional clinical training by working part-time at  
 2-38 a clinical site.

2-39 (b) The amount of a grant and the number of grants to be  
 2-40 awarded must be based on the total number of nursing faculty in  
 2-41 institutions of higher education throughout the state in the year  
 2-42 for which the grant is awarded.

2-43 Sec. 61.9646. FUNDS. (a) In consultation with the nursing  
 2-44 advisory committee, the board shall allocate funds appropriated for  
 2-45 purposes of this subchapter and any other funds received as  
 2-46 described by Subsection (b) as the board considers appropriate to  
 2-47 further the purposes of this subchapter.

2-48 (b) In addition to money appropriated by the legislature,  
 2-49 the board may solicit, accept, and spend gifts, grants, and  
 2-50 donations from any public or private source for the purposes of the  
 2-51 grant programs established under this subchapter.

2-52 Sec. 61.9647. RULES. In consultation with the nursing  
 2-53 advisory committee, the board shall adopt rules for the  
 2-54 administration of the grant programs established under this  
 2-55 subchapter. The rules must include:

2-56 (1) administrative provisions relating to the  
 2-57 awarding of grants under this subchapter, such as:

2-58 (A) eligibility criteria for clinical sites or  
 2-59 institutions of higher education, as applicable;

2-60 (B) grant application procedures;

2-61 (C) guidelines relating to grant amounts;

2-62 (D) procedures for evaluating grant  
 2-63 applications; and

2-64 (E) procedures for monitoring the use of grants;  
 2-65 and

2-66 (2) methods for tracking the effectiveness of grants  
 2-67 that:

2-68 (A) use data reasonably available to the board or  
 2-69 the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies; and

3-1 (B) evaluate transferability and scalability of  
3-2 innovation programs.

3-3 SECTION 2. (a) As soon as practicable after the effective  
3-4 date of this Act, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board  
3-5 shall adopt rules for the implementation and administration of the  
3-6 grant programs required by Subchapter Z-1, Chapter 61, Education  
3-7 Code, as added by this Act. The board may adopt the initial rules in  
3-8 the manner provided by law for emergency rules.

3-9 (b) Not later than September 1, 2023, the Texas Higher  
3-10 Education Coordinating Board shall establish the grant programs  
3-11 required by Subchapter Z-1, Chapter 61, Education Code, as added by  
3-12 this Act, and shall begin to award grants under those programs not  
3-13 later than January 1, 2024.

3-14 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
3-15 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
3-16 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
3-17 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
3-18 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

3-19 \* \* \* \* \*