

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the Texas hospital-based nursing education partnership
3 grant program.

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

5 SECTION 1. Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding
6 Subchapter EE to read as follows:

7 SUBCHAPTER EE. TEXAS HOSPITAL-BASED NURSING EDUCATION

8 PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROGRAM

9 Sec. 61.9751. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

10 (1) "Hospital-based nursing education partnership"
11 means a partnership that:

12 (A) consists of one or more hospitals in this
13 state that are not owned, maintained, or operated by the federal or
14 state government or an agency of the federal or state government and
15 one or more nursing education programs in this state; and

16 (B) serves to increase the number of students
17 enrolled in and graduation rates for each nursing education program
18 in the partnership.

19 (2) "Nursing education program" means an
20 undergraduate professional nursing program or a graduate
21 professional nursing program as those terms are defined by Section
22 54.221.

23 Sec. 61.9752. PROGRAM: ESTABLISHMENT; ADMINISTRATION;
24 PURPOSE. (a) The Texas hospital-based nursing education

1 partnership grant program is established.

2 (b) The board shall administer the program in accordance
3 with this subchapter and rules adopted under this subchapter.

4 (c) Under the program, to the extent funds are available
5 under Section 61.9755, the board shall make grants to
6 hospital-based nursing education partnerships to assist those
7 partnerships to meet the state's needs for registered nurses by
8 increasing the number of nursing education program graduates
9 through innovative instruction through collaboration between
10 hospitals and nursing education programs and the use of the
11 existing expertise and facilities of those hospitals and programs.

12 Sec. 61.9753. GRANTS: CONDITIONS; LIMITATIONS. (a) The
13 board may make a grant under this subchapter to a hospital-based
14 nursing education partnership only if the board determines that:

15 (1) the partnership will meet applicable board and
16 Board of Nurse Examiners standards for instruction and student
17 competency for the associate, bachelor of science, or master of
18 science nursing degree granted by each nursing education program
19 participating in the partnership;

20 (2) each nursing education program participating in
21 the partnership will, as a result of the partnership, enroll in the
22 nursing education program a sufficient number of additional
23 students as established by the board;

24 (3) the marginal cost to the state of producing a
25 graduate of a nursing education program participating in the
26 partnership will be comparable, as determined under criteria
27 established by board rule, to the marginal cost to the state of

1 producing a graduate of a nursing education program not
2 participating in a partnership;

3 (4) each hospital participating in a partnership with
4 a nursing education program will provide to students enrolled in
5 the program clinical placements that:

6 (A) allow the students to take part in providing
7 or to observe, as appropriate, medical services offered by the
8 hospital; and

9 (B) meet the clinical education needs of the
10 students; and

11 (5) the partnership will satisfy any other requirement
12 established by board rule.

13 (b) In establishing the cost-comparison criteria under
14 Subsection (a)(3), the board shall exclude reasonable development
15 and initial implementation costs for the infrastructure necessary
16 to support a hospital-based nursing education partnership.

17 (c) A grant under this subchapter may be spent only on
18 costs related to the development or operation of a hospital-based
19 nursing education partnership that:

20 (1) prepares a student to earn an associate or
21 bachelor of science degree in nursing and to achieve initial
22 licensure as a registered nurse, including by providing an
23 accelerated program to prepare a student to earn a bachelor of
24 science degree in nursing;

25 (2) prepares a student to earn a master of science
26 degree in nursing with a concentration in education; or

27 (3) provides an articulation program providing for

1 advancement from an associate degree to a bachelor of science
2 degree in nursing or to a master of science degree in nursing with a
3 concentration in education.

4 (d) A hospital-based nursing education partnership shall
5 return to the board money granted to the partnership under this
6 subchapter that the partnership does not spend on eligible costs
7 under Subsection (c). As the board determines appropriate to best
8 achieve the purposes of these programs, the board may:

9 (1) use the money to make grants to other
10 hospital-based nursing education partnerships;

11 (2) use the money to make grants under the
12 professional nursing shortage reduction program established under
13 Subchapter Z; or

14 (3) transfer the money to the permanent fund for
15 higher education nursing, allied health, and other health-related
16 programs established under Subchapter C, Chapter 63, for use in
17 making grants under that subchapter.

18 Sec. 61.9754. PRIORITY FOR FUNDING. In awarding a grant
19 under this subchapter, the board shall give priority to a
20 hospital-based nursing education partnership that submits a
21 proposal that:

22 (1) provides for collaborative educational models
23 between one or more participating hospitals and one or more
24 participating nursing education programs that have signed a
25 memorandum of understanding or other written agreement under which
26 the participants agree to comply with standards established by the
27 board, including any standards the board may establish that:

1 (A) provide for program management that offers a
2 centralized decision-making process allowing for inclusion of each
3 entity participating in the partnership;

4 (B) provide for access to clinical training
5 positions for students in nursing education programs that are not
6 participating in the partnership; and

7 (C) specify the details of any requirement
8 relating to a student in a nursing education program participating
9 in the partnership being employed after graduation in a hospital
10 participating in the partnership, including any details relating to
11 the employment of students who do not complete the program, are not
12 offered a nursing position at the hospital, or choose to pursue
13 other employment;

14 (2) includes a demonstrable education model to:

15 (A) increase the number of students enrolled in,
16 the number of students graduating from, and the number of nursing
17 faculty employed by each nursing education program participating in
18 the partnership; and

19 (B) improve student retention in each nursing
20 education program;

21 (3) indicates the availability of money to match all
22 or a portion of the grant money, including matching money from a
23 hospital, private or nonprofit entity, or institution of higher
24 education;

25 (4) provides for completion of a class admitted under
26 this project to be funded by all members of the partnership if the
27 funded project ends before the class graduation date;

1 (5) can be replicated by other hospital-based nursing
2 education partnerships or nursing education programs; and

3 (6) includes plans for sustainability of the
4 partnership beyond the grant period.

5 Sec. 61.9755. GRANTS, GIFTS, AND DONATIONS. In addition to
6 money appropriated by the legislature, the board may solicit,
7 receive, and spend grants, gifts, and donations from any public or
8 private source for the purposes of this subchapter.

9 Sec. 61.9756. RULES. The board shall adopt rules for the
10 administration of the Texas hospital-based nursing education
11 partnership grant program. The rules must include:

12 (1) provisions relating to applying for a grant under
13 this subchapter; and

14 (2) standards of accountability to be met by any
15 hospital-based nursing education partnership awarded a grant under
16 this subchapter.

17 Sec. 61.9757. APPROVAL AS NURSING EDUCATION PILOT PROGRAM.
18 The board and the Board of Nurse Examiners shall establish a single
19 application process under which a hospital-based nursing education
20 partnership may apply both for approval as a pilot program under
21 Section 301.1605, Occupations Code, and for a grant under this
22 subchapter.

23 Sec. 61.9758. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS. (a) Each
24 hospital-based nursing education partnership that receives a grant
25 under this subchapter shall submit to the board narrative and
26 financial reports that include information concerning the extent to
27 which during the reporting period the partnership has complied with

1 accountability standards established by the board.

2 (b) Not later than December 31 of each even-numbered year,
3 the board shall submit a report to the governor, lieutenant
4 governor, and speaker of the house of representatives. The report
5 shall include a list and description of partnerships created under
6 this subchapter and the number of new nursing student enrollees.

7 Sec. 61.9759. ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS. A reasonable amount,
8 not to exceed three percent, of any money appropriated for purposes
9 of this subchapter may be used to pay the costs of administering
10 this subchapter.

11 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date
12 of this Act, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall
13 adopt rules for the implementation and administration of the Texas
14 hospital-based nursing education partnership grant program
15 established under Subchapter EE, Chapter 61, Education Code, as
16 added by this Act. The board may adopt the initial rules in the
17 manner provided by law for emergency rules.

18 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
19 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
20 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
21 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
22 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

David Dewhurst

President of the Senate

Jim Caddick

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3443 was passed by the House on May 11, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 134, Nays 6, 2 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 3443 on May 25, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 140, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

Robert Haney
Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3443 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 23, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Latoye Spaw
Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: 15 JUN 07

Date

Rick Perry

Governor

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
6 PM O'CLOCK

JUN 15 2007

Roger Williams
Secretary of State