

By: Hinojosa

S.B. No. 448

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

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

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

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

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

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