

1-1 By: Howard (Senate Sponsor - Hinojosa) H.B. No. 495
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 13, 2015;
 1-3 April 21, 2015, read first time and referred to Committee on Higher
 1-4 Education; May 7, 2015, reported favorably by the following vote:
 1-5 Yeas 6, Nays 0; May 7, 2015, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12			X	
1-13	X			
1-14	X			

1-15 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-16 AN ACT

1-17 relating to the use of money from the permanent fund for
 1-18 health-related programs to provide grants to nursing education
 1-19 programs.

1-20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-21 SECTION 1. Sections 63.202(f) and (g), Education Code, are
 1-22 amended to read as follows:

1-23 (f) Notwithstanding the limitation provided by Subsection
 1-24 (b), grants awarded under Subsection (c) for the state fiscal
 1-25 biennium ending on August 31, 2017 [2013], and the fiscal biennium
 1-26 ending on August 31, 2019 [2015], by the Texas Higher Education
 1-27 Coordinating Board shall be awarded to programs preparing students
 1-28 for initial licensure as registered nurses or programs preparing
 1-29 qualified faculty members with a master's or doctoral degree for
 1-30 the program, including programs at two-year institutions of higher
 1-31 education, four-year general academic teaching institutions,
 1-32 health science centers, and independent or private institutions of
 1-33 higher education, or to the nursing resource section established
 1-34 under Section 105.002(b), Health and Safety Code. In awarding
 1-35 grants under this subsection, the coordinating board may:

1-36 (1) give priority to institutions proposing to address
 1-37 the shortage of registered nurses by promoting innovation in
 1-38 education, recruitment, and retention of nursing students and
 1-39 qualified faculty;

1-40 (2) award grants on a competitive basis;

1-41 (3) consider the availability of matching funds; and

1-42 (4) fund a study by the nursing resource section to
 1-43 evaluate the competencies of clinical judgment and behaviors that
 1-44 professional nursing students should possess at the time of
 1-45 graduation.

1-46 (g) Subsection (f) and this subsection expire September 1,
 1-47 2019 [2015].

1-48 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
 1-49 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
 1-50 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
 1-51 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
 1-52 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

1-53 * * * * *