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SENATE BILL 327

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002

INTRODUCED BY

Cynthia L. Nava

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION; CREATING THE NURSING QUALITY INVESTMENT
FUND; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. NURSING QUALITY INVESTMENT FUND--USE. --

A. The "nursing quality investment fund" is created in the state treasury. The fund shall consist of appropriations, gifts, grants and donations made to the fund and shall be administered by the commission on higher education. Earnings from investment of the fund shall be credited to the fund, and balances in the fund at the end of any fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund. Disbursements from the fund shall be made by warrant of the department of finance and administration pursuant to vouchers signed by the executive director of the commission on higher

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1 education.

2 B. Money in the nursing quality investment fund is
3 appropriated to the commission on higher education to develop
4 and administer a program to provide grants to institutions of
5 higher education to implement quality enhancements in nursing
6 education programs, particularly efforts designed to increase
7 the number of graduates from those programs. Institutions of
8 higher education shall apply to the commission on a
9 competitive basis for the grants and shall be required to
10 provide matching funds. The commission shall use no more than
11 two percent of the money appropriated to the fund in any
12 fiscal year for administration of the program. The remaining
13 money in the fund shall be used solely to make grants to
14 institutions of higher education for the implementation of
15 enhancements in nursing education programs in accordance with
16 the provisions of this section.

17 C. The commission on higher education shall adopt
18 rules for application for and award of grants from the nursing
19 quality investment fund. To assure that funds will be used
20 for innovative new programs that have the maximum impact, the
21 commission shall establish guidelines for selecting projects
22 for funding that give priority to proposals that:

23 (1) provide a high quality, standards-based
24 experience;

25 (2) incorporate "best practice" approaches

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1 used in New Mexico or nationally;

2 (3) produce results with the potential for
3 both an immediate and a long-term positive impact on the
4 insufficient supply of nurses for New Mexico;

5 (4) promote collaborative partnership efforts
6 among universities, community colleges or schools; and

7 (5) demonstrate an evaluation plan that
8 incorporates state and federal accountability requirements as
9 appropriate.

10 D. Institutions receiving funds through the
11 nursing quality investment fund shall provide matching funds
12 for projects.

13 Section 2. APPROPRIATION. -- One million two hundred fifty
14 thousand dollars (\$1,250,000) is appropriated from the general
15 fund to the nursing quality investment fund for expenditure in
16 fiscal year 2003 and subsequent fiscal years by the commission
17 on higher education to develop and administer a program to
18 make grants to institutions of higher education to implement
19 quality enhancements in nursing education programs. Any
20 unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of a
21 fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund.