Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota

SENATE BILL NO. 2127

Introduced by

Senators Mathern, Dever

Representatives Conmy, Rohr, Schauer

- 1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 43-12.3-06 of the North Dakota Century Code, 2 relating to the student loan repayment program; to provide an appropriation to the department 3 of health and human services for the behavioral health loan repayment program; and to declare 4 an emergency. 5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA: 6 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-12.3-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is 7 amended and reenacted as follows: 8 43-12.3-06. Student loan repayment program - Contract. 9 The health council shall enter a contract with a selected health care professional. The 10 health council shall agree to provide student loan repayments on behalf of the
 - a. For a physician:

section.

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- (1) The loan repayment may not exceed twenty thousand dollars per year, and may not exceed one hundred thousand dollars over five years; and
- (2) The matching funds must equal fifty percent of the amount required in paragraph 1.

selected health care professional subject to the requirements and limitations of this

- b. For a clinical psychologist or a psychiatric registered nurse:
 - (1) The loan repayment may not exceed twelve thousand dollars per year, and may not exceed sixty thousand dollars over five years; and
 - (2) The matching funds must equal twenty-five percent of the amount required in paragraph 1.
- c. For an advanced practice registered nurse or a physician assistant:

Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly

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a.

1			(1)	The loan repayment may not exceed four thousand dollars per year, and
2				may not exceed twenty thousand dollars over five years; and
3			(2)	The matching funds must equal ten percent of the amount required in
4				paragraph 1.
5		d.	For a behavioral health professional:	
6			(1)	The loan repayment may not exceed four thousand dollars per year, and
7				may not exceed twenty thousand dollars over five years; and
8			(2)	The matching funds must equal ten percent of the amount required in
9				paragraph 1.
0		e.	For	purposes of this section, a behavioral health professional means an
11			indiv	vidual who practices in the behavioral health field and is:
2			(1)	A licensed addiction counselor;
3			(2)	A licensed professional counselor;
4			(3)	A licensed social worker;
5			(4)	A registered nurse;
6			(5)	A specialty practice registered nurse; or
7			(6)	A licensed behavior analyst.
8	2.	a.	Pay	ments under this section must be made on behalf of the health care
9			prof	essional directly to the Bank of North Dakota or to another participating
20			lend	ing institution.
21		b.	Exc	ept as otherwise provided, payments under this section may be made only at
22			the o	conclusion of each twelve month period of service.
23		C.	Pror	rated payments may be made only if:
24			(1)	The repayment of the loan requires less than a full annual payment;
25			(2)	The health care professional is terminated or resigns from his or her
26				position; or
27			(3)	The health care professional is unable to complete a twelve-month period of
28				service due to the individual's death, a certifiable medical condition or
29				disability, or a call to military service.
30	3.	Payments under this section terminate upon the earlier of:		

The full repayment of the health care professional's student loan; or

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- b. The completion of <u>fivethree</u> years as a participant in the student loan repayment
 program.
 - 4. The health council shall waive the requirements of this section that pertain to matching funds if the health care professional opens a new practice as a solo practitioner in a city that has fewer than fifteen thousand residents.

SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES -

COMMUNITY HEALTH TRUST FUND - BEHAVIORAL HEALTH LOAN REPAYMENT

- **PROGRAM.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$377,600, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, and out of any moneys in the community health trust fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$510,400, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of health and human services for the purpose of administering and providing loans through the behavioral health loan repayment program pursuant to chapter 43-12.3, for the period beginning with the effective date of this Act, and ending June 30, 2025. The department shall collaborate with the North Dakota university system office regarding selection of
- 17 **SECTION 3. EMERGENCY.** This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.

psychiatric registered nurse students applying for the program.