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Sixty-eighth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

SECOND ENGROSSMENT
with House Amendments
REENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2344

Introduced by

Senator K. Roers

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 43-12.3-06 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the health care professional student loan repayment program; and to provide an appropriation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 43-12.3-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

43-12.3-06. Student loan repayment program - Contract.

1. The health council shall enter a contract with a selected health care professional. The health council shall agree to provide student loan repayments on behalf of the selected health care professional subject to the requirements and limitations of this section.
   a. For a physician:
      (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.
   b. For a clinical psychologist:
      (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<u>, registered nurse,</u> or a physician assistant:

(1) The loan repayment may not exceed four thousand dollars per year, and may not exceed twenty thousand dollars over five years; and

(2) The matching funds must equal ten percent of the amount required in paragraph 1.

d. For a behavioral health professional:

(1) The loan repayment may not exceed four thousand dollars per year, and may not exceed twenty thousand dollars over five years; and

(2) The matching funds must equal ten percent of the amount required in paragraph 1.

e. For purposes of this section, a behavioral health professional means an individual who practices in the behavioral health field and is:

(1) A licensed addiction counselor;

(2) A licensed professional counselor;

(3) A licensed social worker;

(4) A registered nurse;

(5) A specialty practice registered nurse; or

(6) A licensed behavior analyst.

2. a. Payments under this section must be made on behalf of the health care professional directly to the Bank of North Dakota or to another participating lending institution.

b. Except as otherwise provided, payments under this section may be made only at the conclusion of each ~~twelve month~~twelve-month period of service.

c. Prorated payments may be made only if:

(1) The repayment of the loan requires less than a full annual payment;

(2) The health care professional is terminated or resigns from his or her position; or

(3) The health care professional is unable to complete a twelve-month period of service due to the individual's death, a certifiable medical condition or disability, or a call to military service.

3. Payments under this section terminate upon the earlier of:

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

b. The completion of five years as a participant in the student loan repayment program.

4. The health council shall waive the requirements of this section ~~that~~which 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 - HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of $48,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of health and human services for the purpose of funding four slots for registered nurses under the health care professional student loan repayment program, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.