

1 HB255
2 181352-1
3 By Representative Weaver
4 RFD: Boards, Agencies and Commissions
5 First Read: 16-FEB-17

2
3
4
5
6
7
8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, the Board of Nursing
9 administers a loan-repayment program for
10 advanced-practice nurses who contract with the
11 board to work in medically underserved areas of the
12 state after receiving their graduate degree as a
13 certified registered nurse practitioner, a
14 certified nurse midwife, or a certified registered
15 nurse anesthetist.

16 This bill would authorize the board to award
17 advanced-practice nurse loans to those nurses who
18 have recently completed a graduate degree program
19 and immediately begin to practice in a medically
20 underserved area of the state.

21
22 A BILL
23 TO BE ENTITLED
24 AN ACT

25
26 To amend Section 34-21-96, Code of Alabama 1975, as
27 added to the code by Act 2016-353, 2016 Regular Session,

1 relating to the loan repayment program for advanced-practice
2 nursing administered by the Board of Nursing; to authorize the
3 board to provide loans to currently certified nurse
4 practitioners, certified nurse midwives, and certified
5 registered nurse anesthetists who contract with the board to
6 practice in medically underserved areas of the state.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

8 Section 1. Section 34-21-96, as added to the Code of
9 Alabama 1975, by Act 2016-353, 2016 Regular Session, is
10 amended to read as follows:

11 "§34-21-96.

12 "(a) (1) The board shall establish and award,
13 according to the judgment of the board, loans to provide for
14 the training of qualified applicants for admission or students
15 in accredited nursing education programs approved by the board
16 who are pursuing, or have completed within the five years
17 immediately preceding the current loan term, a graduate degree
18 to become a certified registered nurse practitioner (CRNP), a
19 certified nurse midwife (CNM), or a certified registered nurse
20 anesthetist (CRNA), but only for people who have signed
21 contracts as provided in subsection (b). The board may permit
22 eligible people to apply for a loan under the Alabama
23 Loan-Repayment Program for Advanced-Practice Nursing in any
24 scholastic year and for any previously completed scholastic
25 year.

26 "(2) The board may award to an eligible person, for
27 as many as three years for a person pursuing ~~a~~ or holding an

1 eligible master's degree and as many as four years for a
2 person pursuing ~~a~~ or holding an eligible doctorate, an annual
3 loan not to exceed ~~\$15,000~~ fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000),
4 except that the board in each succeeding year may raise the
5 maximum amount allowed for an annual loan by the average
6 percentage increase for that year, compared to the previous
7 year, in in-state tuition for graduate programs in
8 advanced-practice nursing charged by public colleges or
9 universities in Alabama.

10 "(3) The board shall make a careful and thorough
11 investigation of the ability, character, and qualifications of
12 each applicant for loans under the program, and shall in its
13 judgment award a loan or loans under the requirements of the
14 program.

15 "(4) A person who has signed such a contract with
16 the board may postpone choosing an area of critical need in
17 which to work to a time set by the board.

18 "(b) A loan or loans under this program may be
19 awarded only to people who have signed contracts with the
20 board to repay amounts received under the program by working
21 following graduation, or immediately in the case of a then
22 currently approved CRNP, CNM, or CRNA, in full-time practice
23 as a CRNA, CRNP, or CNM in an area of critical need for 18
24 months for each year he or she received a loan under the
25 program.

26 "(c) A participant, subject to approval by the
27 board, may change the area of critical need where he or she

1 will work to repay loans under this program, but in no case
2 shall the applicant work in full-time practice for less than
3 three years in the new area of critical need."

4 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the
5 first day of the third month following its passage and
6 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.