

1 SB37
2 187965-3
3 By Senator Reed
4 RFD: Healthcare
5 First Read: 05-MAR-19
6 PFD: 02/26/2019

1 SB37

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4 ENROLLED, An Act,

5 To amend Section 34-21-96, Code of Alabama 1975,
6 relating to the loan repayment program for advanced-practice
7 nursing administered by the Board of Nursing; to authorize the
8 board to provide loans to currently certified nurse
9 practitioners, certified nurse midwives, and certified
10 registered nurse anesthetists who contract with the board to
11 practice in medically underserved areas of the state.

12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

13 Section 1. Section 34-21-96 of the Code of Alabama
14 1975, is amended to read as follows:

15 "§34-21-96.

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

1 eligible people to apply for a loan under the Alabama
2 Loan-Repayment Program for Advanced-Practice Nursing in any
3 scholastic year and for any previously completed scholastic
4 year.

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

16 "(3) The board shall make a careful and thorough
17 investigation of the ability, character, and qualifications of
18 each applicant for loans under the program, and shall in its
19 judgment award a loan or loans under the requirements of the
20 program.

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

24 "(b) A loan or loans under this program may be
25 awarded only to people who have signed contracts with the

1 board to repay amounts received under the program by working
2 following graduation, or immediately in the case of a then
3 currently approved CRNP, CNM, or CRNA, in full-time practice
4 as a CRNA, CRNP, or CNM in an area of critical need for 18
5 months for each year he or she received a loan under the
6 program.

7 "(c) A participant, subject to approval by the
8 board, may change the area of critical need where he or she
9 will work to repay loans under this program, but in no case
10 shall the applicant work in full-time practice for less than
11 three years in the new area of critical need."

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

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

SB37
Senate 21-MAR-19
I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and passed
the Senate.

Patrick Harris,
Secretary.

House of Representatives
Passed: 23-MAY-19

By: Senator Reed