

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 41

Session of
1989

INTRODUCED BY HOLL, BRIGHTBILL, AFFLERBACH, JUBELIRER, REIBMAN,
RHOADES, HESS AND LEMMOND, JANUARY 23, 1989

SENATOR HESS, EDUCATION, AS AMENDED, NOVEMBER 28, 1989

AN ACT

1 ~~Providing for scholarships for certain nursing students.~~ <—
2 ESTABLISHING A LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN PROFESSIONAL <—
3 NURSES.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 ~~Section 1. Short title.~~ <—

7 ~~This act shall be known and may be cited as the Nursing~~
8 ~~Students Educational Assistance Act of 1989.~~

9 ~~Section 2. Definitions.~~

10 ~~The following words and phrases when used in this act shall~~
11 ~~have the meanings given to them in this section unless the~~
12 ~~context clearly indicates otherwise:~~

13 ~~"Agency." The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance~~
14 ~~Agency.~~

15 ~~"Approved institution of nursing training." An institution~~
16 ~~of nursing training approved by the agency.~~

17 ~~"Approved program of nursing education." A degree or~~

~~nondegree curriculum or course of study pursued on a full time basis for a duration of at least two academic years or its equivalent at an approved institution of nursing training.~~

~~"Qualified nursing student." Any nursing student who:~~

~~(1) Was a resident of this Commonwealth for at least 12 months immediately preceding registration in an accredited nursing school or an accredited nursing training program. The agency shall make final determination in all questions of residency.~~

~~(2) Has satisfactorily met the qualifications of financial need as determined by uniform standards and procedures to be established by the agency and determined without regard to the financial status of the applicant's parents, unless the agency finds that the applicant is, in fact, receiving parental financial support.~~

~~(3) Has manifested a serious intent to become a nurse by satisfactorily completing half of the credit hours necessary to receive a degree from an approved program of nursing education.~~

~~(4) Agrees, in writing, to practice nursing in this Commonwealth for two years immediately following graduation from an approved program of nursing education.~~

~~Section 3. Scholarships for nursing students.~~

~~From the funds appropriated by the General Assembly from time to time for the purposes of this act, the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency is hereby authorized to provide scholarships to qualified nursing students enrolled in approved programs of nursing education.~~

~~Section 4. Amount of scholarships.~~

~~Scholarships awarded under this act are for purposes of~~

~~providing financial assistance for full time enrollment in
approved programs of nursing education. A scholarship shall not
exceed, for each academic year, the tuition and fee charges at
the institution of nursing education at which the applicant is
enrolled, or \$1,000, whichever is less.~~

~~Section 5. Effective date.~~

~~This act shall take effect in 60 days.~~

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

THIS ACT SHALL BE KNOWN AND MAY BE CITED AS THE PROFESSIONAL
NURSE LOAN FORGIVENESS ACT.

SECTION 2. FINDINGS AND DECLARATION OF INTENT.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:

(1) THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS PLANNING TO BECOME
PROFESSIONAL NURSES APPEARS TO BE INADEQUATE TO MEET THE
FUTURE NEEDS FOR PROFESSIONAL NURSES IN THIS COMMONWEALTH.

(2) DEMANDS FROM INDUSTRY AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES
ATTRACT EXISTING AND POTENTIAL CANDIDATES AWAY FROM THE
NURSING PROFESSION.

(3) PAYMENT OF A PORTION OF STUDENT LOANS FOR
PROFESSIONAL NURSES SERVES THE IMPORTANT PUBLIC PURPOSE OF
ENCOURAGING INDIVIDUALS TO ENTER THE PROFESSION AND ALSO
SERVES TO ALLEVIATE AND ELIMINATE THE CRITICAL NEED FOR
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS IN THE FUTURE.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS.

THE FOLLOWING WORDS AND PHRASES WHEN USED IN THIS ACT SHALL
HAVE THE MEANINGS GIVEN TO THEM IN THIS SECTION UNLESS THE
CONTEXT CLEARLY INDICATES OTHERWISE:

"AGENCY." THE PENNSYLVANIA HIGHER EDUCATION ASSISTANCE
AGENCY.

"QUALIFIED NURSE." A PERSON WHO MEETS ALL OF THE FOLLOWING

1 CRITERIA:

2 (1) IS PROPERLY LICENSED PURSUANT TO THE ACT OF MAY 22,
3 1951 (P.L.317, NO.69), KNOWN AS THE PROFESSIONAL NURSING LAW.

4 (2) IS EMPLOYED ON A FULL-TIME BASIS IN A HOSPITAL,
5 NURSING HOME OR OTHER INSTITUTION OR AGENCY PROVIDING MEDICAL
6 SERVICES IN THIS COMMONWEALTH.

7 (3) HAS BORROWED THROUGH THE AGENCY-ADMINISTERED
8 GUARANTEED STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM.

9 (4) HAS APPLIED FOR AND RECEIVED APPROVAL FOR LOAN
10 FORGIVENESS FROM THE AGENCY.

11 SECTION 4. QUALIFIED NURSES LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM.

12 A QUALIFIED APPLICANT WHO IS SELECTED BY THE AGENCY IN
13 ACCORDANCE WITH THIS ACT SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE PAYMENT BY
14 THE AGENCY OF A PORTION OF THE DEBT INCURRED BY THE APPLICANT
15 THROUGH AGENCY-ADMINISTERED GUARANTEED STUDENT LOAN PROGRAMS FOR
16 THE EDUCATION NECESSARY TO BE CERTIFIED AS A NURSE IN
17 PENNSYLVANIA. FOR EACH CALENDAR YEAR THAT A QUALIFIED NURSE IS
18 EMPLOYED, THE AGENCY MAY FORGIVE 25% ANNUALLY OF THE QUALIFIED
19 NURSE'S APPROVED INDEBTEDNESS. NO MORE THAN \$2,500 SHALL BE
20 FORGIVEN IN ANY YEAR, AND NO MORE THAN \$10,000 SHALL BE FORGIVEN
21 FOR ANY APPLICANT. PAYMENTS SHALL BE MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE
22 PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED BY THE AGENCY.

23 SECTION 5. LOANS FORGIVENESS AWARDS.

24 RECIPIENTS OF THE LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM SHALL BE THOSE
25 QUALIFIED NURSES WHO HAVE APPLIED FOR AND RECEIVED APPROVAL FROM
26 THE AGENCY. EACH QUALIFIED NURSE SHALL BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT
27 SUCH DOCUMENTATION OF CONTINUED ELIGIBILITY AS THE AGENCY MAY
28 REQUIRE.

29 SECTION 6. LOAN FUNDING.

30 LOAN FORGIVENESS AWARDS MAY BE MADE TO THE EXTENT THAT FUNDS

1 ARE APPROPRIATED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

2 SECTION 7. RESPONSIBILITY OF AGENCY.

3 IT SHALL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE AGENCY TO ADMINISTER
4 THE NURSING EDUCATION ASSISTANCE LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM
5 ESTABLISHED BY THIS ACT AND TO ADOPT SUCH REGULATIONS, POLICIES,
6 PROCEDURES AND FORMS AS ARE NECESSARY AND NOT INCONSISTENT WITH
7 THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT.

8 SECTION 8. EFFECTIVE DATE.

9 THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT IN 60 DAYS.