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WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION, 1995



ENROLLED

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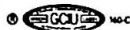
HOUSE BILL No. 2557

(By Delegate PREZIOSO, ET AL)



Passed MARCH 10, 1995

In Effect 90 DAYS FROM Passage



ENROLLED

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

H. B. 2557

**(BY DELEGATES PREZIOSO, BALL, BEACH, HECK,
KALLAI, HENDERSON AND ANDERSON)**

[Passed March 10, 1995; in effect ninety days from passage.]

AN ACT to amend article three, chapter eighteen-c of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated section three, relating to the creation of the health sciences scholarship program.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That article three, chapter eighteen-c of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, be amended by adding thereto a new section, designated section three, to read as follows:

ARTICLE 3. HEALTH PROFESSIONALS STUDENT LOAN PROGRAMS.

§18C-3-3. Health sciences scholarship program; establishment; administration; eligibility.

1 (a) *Legislative findings*—The Legislature finds that
2 there is a critical need for additional practicing health care
3 professionals in West Virginia. Therefore, there is hereby
4 created a health sciences scholarship program to be
5 administered by the vice chancellor of health sciences.
6 The purpose of this program is to provide an incentive for
7 health professional students to complete their training and
8 provide primary care in underserved areas of West

9 Virginia.

10 (b) *Establishment of special account*—There is
11 hereby established a special revolving fund account under
12 the board of trustees in the state treasury to be known as
13 the "Health Sciences Scholarship Fund" that shall be used
14 to carry out the purposes of this section. The fund shall
15 consist of one or more of the following: (1) All
16 unexpended health sciences scholarship funds on deposit
17 in the state treasury on the effective date of this section;
18 (2) appropriations as may be provided by the Legislature;
19 (3) repayments, including interest as set by the vice
20 chancellor of health sciences, collected from scholarship
21 recipients who fail to practice in West Virginia under the
22 terms of the scholarship agreement as set forth under this
23 section; or (4) amounts that may become available from
24 other sources. Balances remaining in the fund at the end
25 of the fiscal year shall not expire or revert to the general
26 revenue. All costs associated with the administration of
27 this section shall be paid from the health sciences
28 scholarship fund under the direction of the vice chancellor
29 of health sciences.

30 (c) *Eligibility requirements*—An individual is eligible
31 for consideration for a health sciences scholarship; if the
32 individual (1) either (A) a fourth-year medical student at
33 the Marshall university school of medicine, West Virginia
34 school of osteopathic medicine or West Virginia university
35 school of medicine who has been accepted in a primary
36 care internship/residency program in West Virginia, or (B)
37 is enrolled or accepted for enrollment in an approved
38 education program at a West Virginia institution leading to
39 a degree or certification in the field of nurse practitioner,
40 nurse midwife, physician assistant, or other disciplines
41 identified as shortage fields by the vice chancellor of
42 health sciences; and (2) signs an agreement to practice for
43 at least two years in an underserved area of West Virginia
44 as determined by the bureau of public health. Awarding
45 preference will be given to West Virginia residents.

46 (d) *Scholarship awards*—Scholarships shall be in the
47 amount of ten thousand dollars and may be awarded by
48 the vice chancellor of health sciences, with the advice of an
49 advisory panel, from the pool of all applicants with a

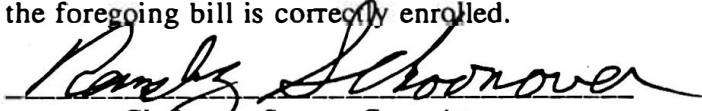
50 commitment to practice in an underserved area of West
51 Virginia as determined by the bureau of public health.
52 Nothing herein shall be construed as granting or
53 guaranteeing any applicant any right to such a
54 scholarship.

55 (e) *Repayment provisions*—A scholarship recipient
56 who fails to practice in an underserved area of West
57 Virginia within six months of the completion of his or her
58 training, or who fails to complete his or her training, is in
59 breach of contract and is liable for repayment of the total
60 scholarship amount received plus interest. The granting or
61 renewal of a license to practice in West Virginia or to
62 reciprocal licensure in another state based upon licensure
63 in West Virginia shall be contingent upon beginning
64 payment and continuing payment until complete
65 repayment of the total scholarship amount if the recipient
66 fails to practice in an underserved area. No license,
67 renewal or reciprocity shall be granted to persons whose
68 repayments are in arrears. The appropriate regulatory
69 board shall inform all other states where a recipient has
70 reciprocated based upon West Virginia licensure of any
71 refusal to renew licensure in West Virginia as a result of
72 failure to repay the scholarship amount. This provision
73 shall be explained in bold type in the scholarship contract.
74 Repayment terms, not inconsistent with this section, shall
75 be established by the vice chancellor of health sciences
76 pursuant to rules as required under subsection (f) of this
77 section.

78 (f) *Promulgation of rules*—The board of trustees shall
79 promulgate rules pursuant to article three-a, chapter
80 twenty-nine-a of this code necessary for the implemen-
81 tation and administration of this section.

82 (g) *Definitions*—For purposes of the repayment
83 provisions of this section, the term "training" means the
84 entire degree program or certification program for nurse
85 midwives, nurse practitioners, physician assistants and
86 other disciplines identified as shortage field by the vice
87 chancellor. The term also means the completion of a
88 degree program and includes completion of an approved
89 residency/internship program for students pursuing a
90 degree in medicine or a degree in osteopathy.

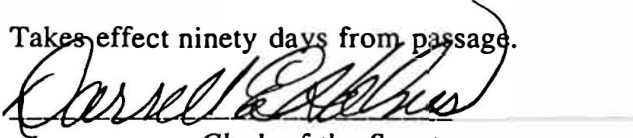
The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.


Chairman Senate Committee

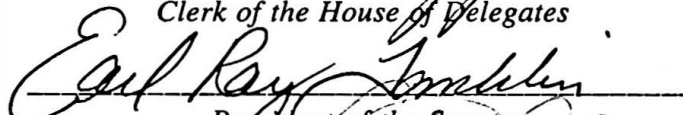

Chairman House Committee


Originating in the House.

Takes effect ninety days from passage.


Clerk of the Senate


Clerk of the House of Delegates


President of the Senate


Speaker of the House of Delegates

The within _____ this the _____
day of _____, 1995.

Governor



PRESENTED TO THE
GOVERNOR

Date 3/31/95
Time 2:40pm