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HOUSE BILL NO. 1079

Offered January 9, 2002

Prefiled January 9, 2002

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 23-35.9, 32.1-122.6:01, and 54.1-3011.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to nursing scholarship and loan repayment funds.

Patrons—Brink; Senator: Puller

Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 23-35.9, 32.1-122.6:01, and 54.1-3011.2 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 23-35.9. Nursing scholarships; Advisory Committee.

Annual nursing scholarships are hereby established for *part-time and full-time* students enrolled in undergraduate and graduate nursing programs. For the purposes of §§ 23-35.9 through 23-35.13 undergraduate nursing programs are defined as programs leading to an associate degree, diploma, or baccalaureate degree in nursing; graduate nursing programs are herein defined as those programs offering masters and doctoral degrees in nursing or related to nursing activities. Undergraduate nursing scholarships shall not exceed \$2,000 annually. Graduate nursing scholarships shall not exceed \$4,000 annually. These awards shall be made by the Advisory Committee to the State Board of Health and the recipients shall be required to attend a school of professional nursing in this Commonwealth if such schools are available and the student can receive admission thereto. This section shall not be construed to prohibit such scholarship from being available to any first-year college student at the beginning of the first college year who presents to the Advisory Committee a notice of intention to pursue an undergraduate nursing program as defined for the purposes of this section.

The Advisory Committee shall be appointed by the State Board of Health. The Committee shall consist of eight members: four of whom shall be deans or directors of schools of nursing or their designees; two of whom shall be past recipients of nursing scholarships awarded pursuant to this title; and, two of whom shall have experience in the administration of student financial aid programs. Appointments shall be for two-year terms. No member of the Committee shall be eligible to serve more than two successive terms in addition to the portion of any unexpired term for which such member was appointed. Following initial appointments, the State Board of Health shall schedule appointments to the Advisory Committee in such a manner that at least two persons who have not served during the previous two years are appointed to the Committee.

§ 32.1-122.6:01. Board of Health to award certain scholarships and loan repayment funds.

A. The Board of Health shall award *to eligible part-time and full-time students* the nursing scholarships available from the Nursing Scholarship and Loan Repayment Fund established in § 54.1-3011.2 pursuant to the procedures for the administration of the scholarships awarded through § 23-35.9.

Eligible *part-time and full-time* students shall be bona fide residents of Virginia as determined by § 23-7.4, shall be enrolled in or accepted for enrollment in nursing education programs preparing them for examination for licensure as practical nurses or registered nurses, and shall also meet such other criteria as may be established by the Board of Health. Prior to awarding any scholarship, the Board of Health shall require the recipient to agree to perform a period of nursing service in this Commonwealth for each scholarship. The Board may establish variable periods of service as conditions for receipt of scholarships according to the amounts of the awards. In the event that fees are collected pursuant to § 54.1-3011.1, the Board shall award the scholarships funded through such fees to practical nurses and registered nurses in proportion to the funds generated by the fees for licensure from such nurses.

Eligibility for these scholarships shall be limited to a total of four academic years. The scholarships shall be awarded on a competitive basis, considering the financial needs of the applicant, and all such funds shall be used only for payment of charges for tuition, fees, room, board, or other educational expenses as prescribed by the Board of Health.

The Board of Health shall submit the names of the scholarship recipients to the Board of Nursing, which shall be responsible for transmission of the funds to the appropriate institution to be credited to the account of the recipient.

B. The Board shall establish a nursing scholarship and loan repayment program for registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and certified nurse aides who agree to perform a period of service in a Commonwealth long-term care facility pursuant to regulations promulgated by the Board in cooperation

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59 with the Board of Nursing. The Board shall submit the names of the scholarship and loan repayment
60 recipients to the Board of Nursing, which shall be responsible for transmission of the funds to the
61 appropriate educational or financial institution to be credited to the account of the recipient.

62 1. The nursing scholarships authorized by this subsection shall be awarded to eligible *part-time and*
63 *full-time* students who are bona fide residents of Virginia as determined by § 23-7.4 and who are (a)
64 accepted for enrollment or are enrolled in approved nursing education programs preparing them for
65 examination for licensure as practical nurses or registered nurses or (b) accepted for enrollment or
66 enrolled in approved nurse aide education programs preparing them for certification as authorized in
67 Chapter 30 (§ 54.1-3000 et seq.) of Title 54.1. Prior to awarding any scholarship, the Board shall require
68 the recipient to agree to perform a period of nursing service in a long-term care facility in the
69 Commonwealth for each scholarship. The Board may establish variable periods of service according to
70 the amount of the award in a long-term care facility as a condition for receipt of a scholarship.

71 Eligibility for these scholarships shall be limited to a total of four academic years. The scholarships
72 shall be awarded on a competitive basis, considering the financial needs of the applicant, and all such
73 funds shall be used only for payment of charges for tuition, fees, room, board, or other educational
74 expenses as prescribed by the Board.

75 2. The nursing loan repayment program authorized by this subsection shall be established for
76 registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and certified nurse aides who: (a) are bona fide residents of
77 Virginia as determined by § 23-7.4, (b) have graduated from an approved educational program pursuant
78 to Chapter 30 (§ 54.1-3000 et seq.) of Title 54.1, and (c) meet such other criteria as determined by the
79 Board. Prior to awarding any funds, the Board shall require the recipient to agree to perform a period of
80 nursing service in a long-term care facility in the Commonwealth as a condition for loan repayment
81 according to the amount of the award.

82 § 54.1-3011.2. Nursing Scholarship and Loan Repayment Fund.

83 A. There is hereby established the Nursing Scholarship and Loan Repayment Fund for the purpose of
84 financing scholarships for (i) *part-time and full-time* students enrolled in or accepted for enrollment by
85 nursing programs which will prepare such students, upon completion, for examination to be licensed by
86 the Board as practical nurses or registered nurses and (ii) those registered nurses, licensed practical
87 nurses, and certified nurse aides who agree to perform a period of nursing service in a Commonwealth
88 long-term care facility pursuant to regulations promulgated by the Board of Health in cooperation with
89 the Board.

90 B. The Fund shall be administered by the Board, in cooperation with the Director of the Department,
91 and the scholarships shall be administered and awarded by the Board of Health pursuant to
92 § 32.1-122.6:01. The Fund shall be maintained and administered separately from any other program or
93 funds of the Board and the Department of Health Professions. No portion of the Fund shall be used for
94 a purpose other than that described in this section and § 32.1-122.6:01. Any money remaining in the
95 Fund at the end of a biennium, including amounts repaid by award recipients, and any interest thereon,
96 shall not revert to the general fund or the funds of the Department of Health Professions, but shall
97 remain in the Fund to be used only for the purposes of this section. In addition to any licensure fees
98 that may be collected pursuant to § 54.1-3011.1, the Fund shall also include:

99 1. Any funds appropriated by the General Assembly for the purposes of the Fund; and

100 2. Any gifts, grants, or bequests received from any private person or organization.

101 Upon receiving the names of the scholarship and loan repayment program recipients from the Board
102 of Health, the Board of Nursing shall be responsible for transmitting the funds to the appropriate
103 institution to be credited to the account of the recipient.

104 **2. That the Boards of Health and Nursing shall promulgate regulations to implement the**
105 **provisions of this act to be effective within 280 days of its enactment.**