

A bill for an act
relating to higher education; clarifying the loan forgiveness program for nurses;
amending Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 144.1501, subdivision 2.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 144.1501, subdivision 2, is amended to
read:

Subd. 2. **Creation of account.** (a) A health professional education loan forgiveness
program account is established. The commissioner of health shall use money from the
account to establish a loan forgiveness program:

(1) for medical residents agreeing to practice in designated rural areas or underserved
urban communities or specializing in the area of pediatric psychiatry;

(2) for midlevel practitioners agreeing to practice in designated rural areas or to teach
~~for at least 20 hours~~ 12 credit hours, or 720 hours per week year in the nursing field in a
postsecondary program at the undergraduate level or the equivalent at the graduate level;

(3) for nurses who agree to practice in a Minnesota nursing home or intermediate
care facility for persons with developmental disability or to teach ~~for at least 20 hours~~ 12
credit hours, or 720 hours per week year in the nursing field in a postsecondary program at
the undergraduate level or the equivalent at the graduate level;

(4) for other health care technicians agreeing to teach ~~for at least 20 hours~~ 12 credit
hours, or 720 hours per week year in their designated field in a postsecondary program
at the undergraduate level or the equivalent at the graduate level. The commissioner, in
consultation with the Healthcare Education-Industry Partnership, shall determine the
health care fields where the need is the greatest, including, but not limited to, respiratory
therapy, clinical laboratory technology, radiologic technology, and surgical technology;

- 2.1 (5) for pharmacists who agree to practice in designated rural areas; and
- 2.2 (6) for dentists agreeing to deliver at least 25 percent of the dentist's yearly patient
- 2.3 encounters to state public program enrollees or patients receiving sliding fee schedule
- 2.4 discounts through a formal sliding fee schedule meeting the standards established by
- 2.5 the United States Department of Health and Human Services under Code of Federal
- 2.6 Regulations, title 42, section 51, chapter 303.
- 2.7 (b) Appropriations made to the account do not cancel and are available until
- 2.8 expended, except that at the end of each biennium, any remaining balance in the account
- 2.9 that is not committed by contract and not needed to fulfill existing commitments shall
- 2.10 cancel to the fund.