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# State of Minnesota

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION

H. F. No. **627**

02/05/2015 Authored by Franson, Lillie, Schomacker, Newton, Hackbarth and others

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care Policy

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to long-term care; modifying nursing facility employee scholarship  
1.3 costs; expanding the health professionals eligible for the health professional  
1.4 education loan forgiveness program; appropriating money; amending Minnesota  
1.5 Statutes 2014, sections 144.1501, subdivision 2; 256B.431, subdivision 36.

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

1.7 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 144.1501, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

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

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

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

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

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

(5) for pharmacists who agree to practice in designated rural areas; ~~and~~  
(6) for dentists agreeing to deliver at least 25 percent of the dentist's yearly patient encounters to state public program enrollees or patients receiving sliding fee schedule discounts through a formal sliding fee schedule meeting the standards established by the United States Department of Health and Human Services under Code of Federal Regulations, title 42, section 51, chapter 303.; and

(7) for the following health care professionals agreeing to practice in a Minnesota nursing home or intermediate care facility for persons with a developmental disability:

(i) dentists, medical residents, midlevel practitioners, or pharmacists; or  
(ii) other health care technicians working in health care fields where the need is the greatest, as determined by the commissioner in consultation with the Healthcare Education-Industry Partnership, including, but not limited to, respiratory therapy, clinical laboratory technology, radiologic technology, and surgical technology.

(b) Appropriations made to the account do not cancel and are available until expended, except that at the end of each biennium, any remaining balance in the account that is not committed by contract and not needed to fulfill existing commitments shall cancel to the fund.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 256B.431, subdivision 36, is amended to read:

Subd. 36. **Employee scholarship costs and training in English as a second language.** (a) For the period between ~~July 1, 2001, and June 30, 2003~~ October 1, 2015, and September 30, 2017, the commissioner shall provide to each nursing facility reimbursed under this section, section 256B.434, or any other section, a scholarship per diem of 25 cents to the total operating payment rate to be used:

(1) for employee scholarships that satisfy the following requirements:

(i) scholarships are available to all employees who work an average of at least ~~20~~ ten hours per week at the facility except the administrator, ~~department supervisors, and registered nurses~~ and to reimburse student loan expenses for newly hired and recently graduated registered nurses and licensed practical nurses; and

(ii) the course of study is expected to lead to career advancement with the facility or in long-term care, including medical care interpreter services and social work; and

(2) to provide job-related training in English as a second language.

(b) A facility receiving a rate adjustment under this subdivision may submit to the commissioner on a schedule determined by the commissioner and on a form supplied by the commissioner a calculation of the scholarship per diem, including: the amount received from this rate adjustment; the amount used for training in English as a second

language; the number of persons receiving the training; the name of the person or entity providing the training; and for each scholarship recipient, the name of the recipient, the amount awarded, the educational institution attended, the nature of the educational program, the program completion date, and a determination of the per diem amount of these costs based on actual resident days.

(c) On ~~July 1, 2003~~ October 1, 2017, the commissioner shall remove the 25 cent scholarship per diem from the total operating payment rate of each facility.

(d) ~~For rate years beginning after June 30, 2003, the commissioner shall provide to each facility the scholarship per diem determined in paragraph (b).~~ In calculating the per diem under paragraph (b), the commissioner shall allow ~~only~~ costs related to tuition ~~and~~, direct educational expenses, and child care costs and transportation expenses related to direct educational expenses.

(e) The rate increase under this subdivision is an optional rate add-on that the facility must request from the commissioner in a manner prescribed by the commissioner. The rate increase must be used for scholarships as specified in this subdivision.

(f) Nursing facilities that close beds during a rate year can request to have their scholarship adjustment under paragraph (b) recalculated by the commissioner for the remainder of the rate year to reflect the reduction in resident days compared to the cost report year.

Sec. 3. **DIRECTION TO COMMISSIONER; LONG-TERM CARE  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.**

The commissioner of employment and economic development shall review existing workforce development programs in order to further the advancement of long-term care careers in rural Minnesota. The commissioner shall report recommendations regarding training, retaining, and connecting employees to long-term care facilities in rural Minnesota to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over long-term care and workforce development by February 1, 2016.

Sec. 4. **APPROPRIATIONS.**

(a) \$..... is appropriated in fiscal year 2016 and \$..... is appropriated in fiscal year 2017 from the general fund to the commissioner of health for the purposes of the health professional education loan forgiveness program under Minnesota Statutes, section 144.1501.

(b) \$..... is appropriated in fiscal year 2016 and \$..... is appropriated in fiscal year 2017 from the general fund to the commissioner of human services for the purposes of

- 4.1 nursing facility employee scholarship costs under Minnesota Statutes, section 256B.431,  
4.2 subdivision 36.