

By: Representatives White, Felsher,
Reynolds, Stamps, Mickens, Miles

To: Public Health and Human
Services

HOUSE BILL NO. 1005
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO CREATE NEW SECTION 37-106-60, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
2 1972, TO CREATE THE NURSING AND RESPIRATORY THERAPY EDUCATION
3 INCENTIVE PROGRAM; TO PROVIDE THAT THE PROGRAM IS FOR STUDY IN
4 NURSING TO BECOME A LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE OR A REGISTERED
5 NURSE, FOR ADVANCED STUDY IN NURSING BY LICENSED REGISTERED
6 NURSES, OR FOR STUDY IN RESPIRATORY THERAPY TO BECOME A
7 RESPIRATORY THERAPIST; TO PROVIDE THAT THE LOANS MAY BE REPAID BY
8 PRACTICING NURSING OR RESPIRATORY THERAPY IN THE STATE OF
9 MISSISSIPPI FOR NOT LESS THAN FIVE YEARS AFTER COMPLETION OF THE
10 COURSE OF STUDY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

12 **SECTION 1.** The following shall be codified as Section
13 37-106-60, Mississippi Code of 1972:

14 37-106-60. (1) This section shall be known as the Nursing
15 and Respiratory Therapy Education Incentive Program.

16 (2) There is created a forgivable loan program for study in
17 nursing to become a licensed practical nurse or a registered
18 nurse, for advanced study in nursing by licensed registered
19 nurses, or for study in respiratory therapy to become a
20 respiratory therapist. Forgivable loans are established and shall
21 be allocated to students who: (a) are accepted and enrolled in an
22 accredited nursing program or respiratory therapy program approved



23 by the board; (b) complete an application by the deadline
24 established by the board; and (c) enter into contract with the
25 board, obligating themselves to pursue to completion the course of
26 study agreed upon, and following the completion of the course of
27 study, to practice nursing or respiratory therapy, as the case may
28 be, in the State of Mississippi for not less than five (5) years.

29 (3) Repayment and conversion terms shall be the same as
30 outlined in Section 37-106-53, except that the following
31 provisions shall apply instead of subsection (1)(b) of that
32 section: In lieu of payment in full of both principal and
33 interest, a loan recipient under this section may elect to repay
34 by entry into service employment as provided in subsection (2)(c)
35 of this section. Repayment under this option shall convert the
36 loan to an interest-free scholarship and discharge the same, on
37 the basis of one fifth (1/5) of the total loan amount for each
38 full year of service, or the appropriate proportion of the total
39 outstanding balance of principal and interest, all as established
40 by rule and regulation of the board. If at any time before the
41 repayment in full of the total obligation the recipient abandons
42 or abrogates repayment by this service option, the provisions of
43 Section 37-106-53(1)(c) shall apply.

44 (4) The board shall establish the rules and regulations as
45 it deems necessary and proper to carry out the purposes and intent
46 of this section.



47 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
48 and after July 1, 2022.

