

By: Senator(s) Parks

To: Universities and
Colleges; Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2374

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE NURSE TEACHER LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM FOR
2 NEW NURSE EDUCATORS TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE POSTSECONDARY
3 EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BOARD; TO SET ELIGIBILITY
4 REQUIREMENTS, TO REQUIRE THAT RECIPIENTS REPORT ANY CHANGES OF
5 THEIR EMPLOYMENT STATUS TO THE BOARD; TO PROVIDE FOR THE AWARD
6 AMOUNTS; TO CREATE A SPECIAL FUND IN THE STATE TREASURY TO BE
7 DESIGNATED THE NURSE TEACHER LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM; AND FOR
8 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

10 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is established the "Nurse Teacher Loan
11 Repayment Program" for new nurse educators to be administered by
12 the Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance
13 Board.

14 (2) Subject to the availability of funds, an eligible
15 applicant for an initial award must have:

16 (a) Legal residency in the State of Mississippi;

17 (b) Gained employment as a nurse educator at an
18 accredited school of nursing in the State of Mississippi as
19 approved by the Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial
20 Assistance Board;



21 (c) A current unencumbered Mississippi nursing license;
22 and

23 (d) Outstanding qualifying educational loans, received
24 at any point during the recipient's postsecondary educational
25 career, which may include the principal, interest, and related
26 expenses such as the required interest premium on the unpaid
27 balances of government and commercial loans obtained by the
28 recipient for educational expense.

29 (3) Persons who have received funds from the Mississippi
30 Nursing Education Stipend Forgivable Loan Program, or who are in
31 default or delinquent on any federal, state, local or commercial
32 qualifying educational loan, shall not be eligible for this
33 program.

34 (4) Recipients in the initial year of the program will be
35 selected on a first-come, first-served basis from all eligible
36 applicants. In the second and subsequent years of an applicant's
37 continued eligibility, priority shall be given to renewal
38 applicants.

39 (5) Recipients shall receive not more than Three Thousand
40 Dollars (\$3,000.00) for each year of full-time equivalent
41 teaching. The maximum award under this program shall be Nine
42 Thousand Dollars (\$9,000.00).

43 (6) A recipient shall not be penalized for ending teaching
44 employment at a qualifying educational entity if the recipient



45 begins working for another qualifying educational entity in the
46 State of Mississippi during the year on which the award is based.

47 (7) Awards will be granted on a year-to-year basis, and
48 recipients shall have no obligation to seek a subsequent award.

49 (8) Awards shall be paid annually, after the expiration of
50 the year of teaching for which the award was granted, to the
51 recipient's lender or loan service provider, to be applied to the
52 outstanding balance. Monies paid by the recipient or on the
53 recipient's behalf toward qualifying educational loans before
54 payment of the award shall not be eligible for reimbursement
55 through the program.

56 (9) During the teaching year for which the award is granted,
57 a recipient shall at all times keep the Mississippi Postsecondary
58 Education Financial Assistance Board informed of any changes to
59 the recipient's current, correct and complete employment
60 information and status.

61 (10) Recipients who fail to maintain a nursing license or
62 fail to fulfill the teaching obligation on which the award was
63 based shall forfeit any right to the award.

64 (11) The Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial
65 Assistance Board, in collaboration with the State Board of Nursing
66 and any other applicable state agency as determined by the
67 Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board,
68 shall attempt to track award recipients under this program through
69 their fifth teaching year, unless the recipient leaves teaching at



70 an earlier date. Data collected shall include each recipients'
71 place of employment, teaching area and any other pertinent
72 information necessary to determine the efficacy of the program in
73 retaining nursing teachers.

74 (12) The Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial
75 Assistance Board shall promulgate regulations necessary for the
76 proper administration of this section, including setting a fiscal
77 year policy for the program and application dates and deadlines.

78 (13) There is established in the State Treasury a special
79 fund to be designated the "Nurse Teacher Loan Repayment Program,"
80 into which shall be deposited those funds appropriated by the
81 Legislature, and any other funds that may be made available, for
82 the purpose of implementing the loan repayment program established
83 herein. Money in the fund at the end of the fiscal year shall not
84 lapse into the General Fund, and interest earned on any amounts
85 deposited into the fund shall be credited to the special fund.

86 (14) This section shall stand repealed on July 1, 2027.

87 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
88 and after its passage.

