

AN ACT

relating to financial assistance, including repayment of loans, for certain students attending postsecondary educational institutions.

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

SECTION 1. Section 51.831, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 51.831. COUNCIL AGREEMENT WITH PRIVATE OR INDEPENDENT INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION. Each private or independent institution of higher education must enter into an agreement with the council under which the institution agrees to:

(1) provide academic counseling to a participating student or program alternate enrolled at the institution;

(2) as soon as practicable, implement or expand appropriate degree programs as necessary to provide participating students with sufficient preparation for enrollment in participating medical schools;

(3) select a faculty director or an academic or health professions advisor to assist in implementing the program at the institution and in implementing or expanding the institution's degree programs as necessary under Subdivision (2); and

(4) provide, in addition to any other scholarship money awarded to the student, a scholarship to a participating student in the amount required for a participating student attending a general academic teaching institution, except that

1 ~~[but not to exceed]~~ the amount of scholarship awards may not exceed
2 the amount of tuition and fees that the student is charged.

3 SECTION 2. Section 61.601, Education Code, as amended by
4 Chapters 891 (H.B. 3083) and 1101 (H.B. 3808), Acts of the 85th
5 Legislature, Regular Session, 2017, is reenacted and amended to
6 read as follows:

7 Sec. 61.601. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "mental
8 health professional" means:

9 (1) a licensed physician who is:

10 (A) a graduate of an accredited psychiatric
11 residency training program; or

12 (B) certified in psychiatry by:

13 (i) the American Board of Psychiatry and
14 Neurology; or

15 (ii) the American Osteopathic Board of
16 Neurology and Psychiatry;

17 (2) a psychologist, as defined by Section 501.002,
18 Occupations Code;

19 (3) a licensed professional counselor, as defined by
20 Section 503.002, Occupations Code;

21 (4) an advanced practice registered nurse, as defined
22 by Section 301.152, Occupations Code, who holds a nationally
23 recognized board certification in psychiatric or mental health
24 nursing;

25 (5) a licensed clinical social worker, as defined by
26 Section 505.002, Occupations Code; ~~and~~

27 (6) a licensed specialist in school psychology, as

1 defined by Section 501.002, Occupations Code;

2 (7) a chemical dependency counselor, as defined by
3 Section 504.001, Occupations Code; and

4 (8) [~~6~~] a licensed marriage and family therapist, as
5 defined by Section 502.002, Occupations Code.

6 SECTION 3. Section 61.603, Education Code, is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 Sec. 61.603. ELIGIBILITY. (a) Except as provided by
9 Subsection (b), to [~~To~~] be eligible to receive repayment assistance
10 under this subchapter, a mental health professional must:

11 (1) apply to the board;

12 (2) have completed one, two, three, four, or five
13 consecutive years of practice in a mental health professional
14 shortage area designated by the Department of State Health
15 Services; and

16 (3) provide mental health services in this state to:

17 (A) recipients under the medical assistance
18 program authorized by Chapter 32, Human Resources Code;

19 (B) enrollees under the child health plan program
20 authorized by Chapter 62, Health and Safety Code; or

21 (C) persons committed to a secure correctional
22 facility operated by or under contract with the Texas Juvenile
23 Justice Department or persons confined in a secure correctional
24 facility operated by or under contract with any division of the
25 Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

26 (b) To be eligible to receive repayment assistance under
27 this subchapter, a mental health professional described by Section

1 61.601(6) must:

2 (1) apply to the board;

3 (2) be employed by:

4 (A) a school district all or part of which is
5 located in a federally designated mental health care health
6 professional shortage area;

7 (B) an open-enrollment charter school that is
8 located in a shortage area described by Paragraph (A); or

9 (C) a public school that receives federal funding
10 under Title I, Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
11 U.S.C. Section 6301 et seq.);

12 (3) provide mental health services to students
13 enrolled in that district or school, as applicable; and

14 (4) have completed one, two, three, four, or five
15 consecutive years of practice in this state as described by
16 Subdivisions (2) and (3).

17 (c) In addition to satisfying the requirements under
18 Subsection (a), for a licensed physician to be eligible to receive
19 repayment assistance under this subchapter after the physician's
20 third consecutive year of practice described under Subsection
21 (a)(2), the physician must be certified in psychiatry by:

22 (1) the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology; or

23 (2) the American Osteopathic Board of Neurology and
24 Psychiatry.

25 SECTION 4. Sections 61.604(d) and (e), Education Code, as
26 added by Chapter 1101 (H.B. 3808), Acts of the 85th Legislature,
27 Regular Session, 2017, are amended to read as follows:

1 (d) The board may award a grant under this subchapter to a
2 mental health professional described by Section 61.601(8)
3 [~~61.601(6)~~] only in accordance with Subsection (e).

4 (e) If in a state fiscal year there are funds available for
5 purposes of the program after funding grants to all eligible mental
6 health professionals described by Sections 61.601(1)-(7)
7 [~~Subsections 61.601(1)-(5)~~], the board may allocate any unused
8 funds to award repayment assistance grants to mental health
9 professionals in any of the professions listed in Section 61.601
10 except that priority must be given to awarding grants to mental
11 health professionals described by Sections 61.601(1)-(7)
12 [~~Subsections 61.601(1)-(5)~~]. The limitations prescribed by
13 Subsections (b) and (c) do not apply to grants awarded under this
14 subsection.

15 SECTION 5. Section 61.607(b), Education Code, is amended to
16 read as follows:

17 (b) The total amount of repayment assistance received by a
18 mental health professional under this subchapter may not exceed:

19 (1) \$160,000, for assistance from the state received
20 by a licensed physician;

21 (2) \$80,000, for assistance from the state received
22 by:

23 (A) a psychologist;

24 (B) a licensed clinical social worker, if the
25 social worker has received a doctoral degree related to social
26 work;

27 (C) a licensed professional counselor, if the

1 counselor has received a doctoral degree related to counseling; or

2 (D) a licensed marriage and family therapist, if
3 the marriage and family therapist has received a doctoral degree
4 related to marriage and family therapy;

5 (3) \$60,000, for assistance from the state received by
6 an advanced practice registered nurse;

7 (4) \$40,000, for assistance from the state received
8 by:

9 (A) a licensed clinical social worker, a licensed
10 marriage and family therapist, or a licensed professional counselor
11 who is not described by Subdivision (2); or

12 (B) a licensed specialist in school psychology;
13 and

14 (5) \$10,000, for assistance from the state received by
15 a licensed chemical dependency counselor, if the chemical
16 dependency counselor has received an associate degree related to
17 chemical dependency counseling or behavioral science.

18 SECTION 6. The following provisions are repealed:

19 (1) Section 61.604(d), Education Code, as added by
20 Chapter 891 (H.B. 3083), Acts of the 85th Legislature, Regular
21 Session, 2017; and

22 (2) Section 61.608(c), Education Code, as added by
23 Chapter 891 (H.B. 3083), Acts of the 85th Legislature, Regular
24 Session, 2017.

25 SECTION 7. The change in law made by this Act to Section
26 51.831, Education Code, applies to the provision of scholarships
27 pursuant to an agreement under Section 51.831, Education Code, as

H.B. No. 1211

1 amended by this Act, beginning with the 2023-2024 academic year.

2 SECTION 8. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1211 was passed by the House on May 2, 2023, by the following vote: Yeas 124, Nays 20, 3 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 1211 on May 25, 2023, by the following vote: Yeas 122, Nays 17, 1 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1211 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 21, 2023, by the following vote: Yeas 29, Nays 2.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor