

1-1 By: Guillen, Ramos (Senate Sponsor - Zaffirini) H.B. No. 1211
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 3, 2023;
1-3 May 5, 2023, read first time and referred to Subcommittee on Higher
1-4 Education; May 18, 2023, reported favorably from Committee on
1-5 Education by the following vote: Yeas 13, Nays 0; May 18, 2023,
1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			
1-17	X			
1-18	X			
1-19	X			
1-20	X			
1-21	X			

1-22 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-23 AN ACT

1-24 relating to repayment of certain mental health professional
1-25 education loans.

1-26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-27 SECTION 1. Section 61.601, Education Code, as amended by
1-28 Chapters 891 (H.B. 3083) and 1101 (H.B. 3808), Acts of the 85th
1-29 Legislature, Regular Session, 2017, is reenacted and amended to
1-30 read as follows:

1-31 Sec. 61.601. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "mental
1-32 health professional" means:

1-33 (1) a licensed physician who is:

1-34 (A) a graduate of an accredited psychiatric
1-35 residency training program; or

1-36 (B) certified in psychiatry by:

1-37 (i) the American Board of Psychiatry and
1-38 Neurology; or

1-39 (ii) the American Osteopathic Board of
1-40 Neurology and Psychiatry;

1-41 (2) a psychologist, as defined by Section 501.002,
1-42 Occupations Code;

1-43 (3) a licensed professional counselor, as defined by
1-44 Section 503.002, Occupations Code;

1-45 (4) an advanced practice registered nurse, as defined
1-46 by Section 301.152, Occupations Code, who holds a nationally
1-47 recognized board certification in psychiatric or mental health
1-48 nursing;

1-49 (5) a licensed clinical social worker, as defined by
1-50 Section 505.002, Occupations Code; ~~and~~

1-51 (6) a licensed specialist in school psychology, as
1-52 defined by Section 501.002, Occupations Code;

1-53 (7) a chemical dependency counselor, as defined by
1-54 Section 504.001, Occupations Code; and

1-55 (8) ~~(6)~~ a licensed marriage and family therapist, as
1-56 defined by Section 502.002, Occupations Code.

1-57 SECTION 2. Section 61.603, Education Code, is amended to
1-58 read as follows:

1-59 Sec. 61.603. ELIGIBILITY. (a) Except as provided by
1-60 Subsection (b), to ~~to~~ be eligible to receive repayment assistance
1-61 under this subchapter, a mental health professional must:

2-1 (1) apply to the board;
 2-2 (2) have completed one, two, three, four, or five
 2-3 consecutive years of practice in a mental health professional
 2-4 shortage area designated by the Department of State Health
 2-5 Services; and
 2-6 (3) provide mental health services in this state to:
 2-7 (A) recipients under the medical assistance
 2-8 program authorized by Chapter 32, Human Resources Code;
 2-9 (B) enrollees under the child health plan program
 2-10 authorized by Chapter 62, Health and Safety Code; or
 2-11 (C) persons committed to a secure correctional
 2-12 facility operated by or under contract with the Texas Juvenile
 2-13 Justice Department or persons confined in a secure correctional
 2-14 facility operated by or under contract with any division of the
 2-15 Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

2-16 (b) To be eligible to receive repayment assistance under
 2-17 this subchapter, a mental health professional described by Section
 2-18 61.601(6) must:

2-19 (1) apply to the board;
 2-20 (2) be employed by:
 2-21 (A) a school district all or part of which is
 2-22 located in a federally designated mental health care health
 2-23 professional shortage area;
 2-24 (B) an open-enrollment charter school that is
 2-25 located in a shortage area described by Paragraph (A); or
 2-26 (C) a public school that receives federal funding
 2-27 under Title I, Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
 2-28 U.S.C. Section 6301 et seq.);
 2-29 (3) provide mental health services to students
 2-30 enrolled in that district or school, as applicable; and
 2-31 (4) have completed one, two, three, four, or five
 2-32 consecutive years of practice in this state as described by
 2-33 Subdivisions (2) and (3).

2-34 (c) In addition to satisfying the requirements under
 2-35 Subsection (a), for a licensed physician to be eligible to receive
 2-36 repayment assistance under this subchapter after the physician's
 2-37 third consecutive year of practice described under Subsection
 2-38 (a)(2), the physician must be certified in psychiatry by:

2-39 (1) the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology; or
 2-40 (2) the American Osteopathic Board of Neurology and
 2-41 Psychiatry.

2-42 SECTION 3. Sections 61.604(d) and (e), Education Code, as
 2-43 added by Chapter 1101 (H.B. 3808), Acts of the 85th Legislature,
 2-44 Regular Session, 2017, are amended to read as follows:

2-45 (d) The board may award a grant under this subchapter to a
 2-46 mental health professional described by Section 61.601(8)
 2-47 [~~61.601(6)~~] only in accordance with Subsection (e).

2-48 (e) If in a state fiscal year there are funds available for
 2-49 purposes of the program after funding grants to all eligible mental
 2-50 health professionals described by Sections 61.601(1)-(7)
 2-51 [~~Subsections 61.601(1)-(5)~~], the board may allocate any unused
 2-52 funds to award repayment assistance grants to mental health
 2-53 professionals in any of the professions listed in Section 61.601
 2-54 except that priority must be given to awarding grants to mental
 2-55 health professionals described by Sections 61.601(1)-(7)
 2-56 [~~Subsections 61.601(1)-(5)~~]. The limitations prescribed by
 2-57 Subsections (b) and (c) do not apply to grants awarded under this
 2-58 subsection.

2-59 SECTION 4. Section 61.607(b), Education Code, is amended to
 2-60 read as follows:

2-61 (b) The total amount of repayment assistance received by a
 2-62 mental health professional under this subchapter may not exceed:

2-63 (1) \$160,000, for assistance from the state received
 2-64 by a licensed physician;

2-65 (2) \$80,000, for assistance from the state received
 2-66 by:

2-67 (A) a psychologist;
 2-68 (B) a licensed clinical social worker, if the
 2-69 social worker has received a doctoral degree related to social

3-1 work;
3-2 (C) a licensed professional counselor, if the
3-3 counselor has received a doctoral degree related to counseling; or
3-4 (D) a licensed marriage and family therapist, if
3-5 the marriage and family therapist has received a doctoral degree
3-6 related to marriage and family therapy;
3-7 (3) \$60,000, for assistance from the state received by
3-8 an advanced practice registered nurse;
3-9 (4) \$40,000, for assistance from the state received
3-10 by:
3-11 (A) a licensed clinical social worker, a licensed
3-12 marriage and family therapist, or a licensed professional counselor
3-13 who is not described by Subdivision (2); or
3-14 (B) a licensed specialist in school psychology;
3-15 and
3-16 (5) \$10,000, for assistance from the state received by
3-17 a licensed chemical dependency counselor, if the chemical
3-18 dependency counselor has received an associate degree related to
3-19 chemical dependency counseling or behavioral science.
3-20 SECTION 5. The following provisions are repealed:
3-21 (1) Section 61.604(d), Education Code, as added by
3-22 Chapter 891 (H.B. 3083), Acts of the 85th Legislature, Regular
3-23 Session, 2017; and
3-24 (2) Section 61.608(c), Education Code, as added by
3-25 Chapter 891 (H.B. 3083), Acts of the 85th Legislature, Regular
3-26 Session, 2017.
3-27 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

3-28 * * * * *