In the Senate - Received from the House April 24, 2023; Price (Senate Sponsor - Schwertner) 1-1 1**-**2 1**-**3 May 2, 2023, read first time and referred to Committee on Education; May 12, 2023, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 13, Nays 0; May 12, 2023, sent to printer.) 1-4 1-5

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1-7		Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8	Creighton	X	-		
1-9	Campbell	Х			
1-10	Bettencourt	Х			
1-11	Birdwell	X			
1-12	Flores	X			
1-13	King	Х			
1-14	LaMantia	X			
1-15	Menéndez	X			
1-16	Middleton	X			
1-17	Parker	X			
1-18	Paxton	X			
1-19	Springer	X			
1-20	West	X			

## 1-21 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED 1-22 AN ACT

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1-59 1-60 relating to eligibility requirements for student loan repayment assistance for certain mental health professionals.

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

SECTION 1. Section 61.603, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

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

(1) apply to the board;

- (2) have completed one, two, three, four, or five consecutive years of practice in a mental health professional shortage area designated by the Department of State Health Services; and
  - (3)provide mental health services in this state to:
- (A) recipients under the medical assistance program authorized by Chapter 32, Human Resources Code;

(B) enrollees under the child health plan program

authorized by Chapter 62, Health and Safety Code; or

- (C) persons committed to a secure correctional facility operated by or under contract with the Texas Juvenile Justice Department or persons confined in a secure correctional facility operated by or under contract with any division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.
- (b) A mental health professional may also establish eligibility for the repayment assistance under this subchapter by satisfying the requirements of this subsection. To establish eligibility under this subsection, the mental health professional must:

(1)

apply to the board;
provide mental health services to:
 (A) patients in a state hospital, as defined by Section 552.0011 , Health and Safety Code; or

(B) individuals receiving community-based mental health services from a local mental health authority that provides the services in accordance with Subchapter B, Chapter 534, Health and Safety Code; and

(3) have completed one, two, three, four, or five consecutive years of practice in this state as described by Subdivision (2). 1-61

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(c) In addition to satisfying the requirements under Subsection (a) or (b), for a licensed physician to be eligible to receive repayment assistance under this subchapter after the physician's third consecutive year of practice described under Subsection (a)(2) or (b)(3), as applicable, the physician must be certified in psychiatry by:

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

2-9 Psychiatry. 2**-**10 2**-**11

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SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act to Section 61.603, Education Code, applies only to a person who first establishes eligibility for loan repayment assistance under establishes eligibility for loan repayment assistance under Subchapter K, Chapter 61, Education Code, as amended by this Act, on the basis of an application submitted on or after September 1, 2023. A person who first establishes eligibility on the basis of an application submitted before September 1, 2023, is governed by the law in effect on the date the application was submitted, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

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