

By: Schwertner

S.B. No. 804

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

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. ELIGIBILITY. (a) Except as provided by 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) providemental 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.

1 (b) A mental health professional may also establish
2 eligibility for the repayment assistance under this subchapter by
3 satisfying the requirements of this subsection. To establish
4 eligibility under this subsection, the mental health professional
5 must:

6 (1) apply to the board;

7 (2) provide mental health services to:

8 (A) patients in a state hospital, as defined by
9 Section 552.0011, Health and Safety Code; or

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

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

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

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

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

26 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act to Section
27 61.603, Education Code, applies only to a person who first

1 establishes eligibility for loan repayment assistance under
2 Subchapter K, Chapter 61, Education Code, as amended by this Act, on
3 the basis of an application submitted on or after September 1, 2023.
4 A person who first establishes eligibility on the basis of an
5 application submitted before September 1, 2023, is governed by the
6 law in effect on the date the application was submitted, and the
7 former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

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