

By: Burnam

H.B. No. 3392

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to loan repayment assistance for certain social workers who work for the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding Subchapter Z to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER Z. REPAYMENT OF CERTAIN SOCIAL WORKER EDUCATION LOANS

Sec. 61.9701. REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED. (a) The board shall provide, in accordance with this subchapter and board rules, assistance in the repayment of education loans for social workers who apply and qualify for the assistance.

(b) The provision of financial assistance in the repayment of education loans under this subchapter promotes a public purpose.

Sec. 61.9702. ELIGIBILITY. To be eligible to receive repayment assistance, a person must:

(1) apply to the board;

(2) have graduated from an accredited public or private institution of higher education in or outside this state with a baccalaureate or graduate degree in social work; and

(3) currently work as a social worker for the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services.

Sec. 61.9703. LIMITATIONS. (a) A social worker may receive repayment assistance grants for each of not more than five years.

(b) The amount of loan repayment assistance received by a

1 social worker under this subchapter in one year may not exceed 20  
2 percent of the total amount of the social worker's outstanding  
3 education loans, including scheduled interest payments that would  
4 become due if the loan is not prepaid, when the social worker enters  
5 into the agreement.

6 Sec. 61.9704. ELIGIBLE LOANS. (a) The board may provide  
7 repayment assistance for the repayment of any education loan  
8 received by the social worker through any lender for education  
9 while enrolled at an institution of higher education described by  
10 Section 61.9702(2) in a baccalaureate or graduate degree program in  
11 social work.

12 (b) The board may not provide repayment assistance for an  
13 education loan that is in default at the time of the social worker's  
14 application.

15 Sec. 61.9705. REPAYMENT. (a) The board shall deliver any  
16 repayment assistance made under this subchapter in a lump sum  
17 payable to the lender and the social worker and in accordance with  
18 any applicable federal law.

19 (b) Loan repayment assistance received under this  
20 subchapter may be applied to the principal amount of the loan and to  
21 interest that accrues.

22 Sec. 61.9706. ADVISORY COMMITTEE. The board may appoint an  
23 advisory committee from outside the board's membership to assist  
24 the board in performing the board's duties under this subchapter.

25 Sec. 61.707. ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS. The board may solicit and  
26 accept gifts, grants, and donations for the purposes of this  
27 subchapter.

1       Sec. 61.9708. RULES. The board shall adopt rules necessary  
2 for the administration of this subchapter.

3       SECTION 2. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board  
4 shall adopt the rules for the repayment assistance program under  
5 Subchapter Z, Chapter 61, Education Code, as added by this Act, not  
6 later than December 1, 2003.

7       SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.