

1-1 By: Van de Putte S.B. No. 1141  
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 25, 2009; March 13, 2009,  
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Higher Education;  
1-4 April 14, 2009, reported adversely, with favorable Committee  
1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 5, Nays 0; April 14, 2009,  
1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1141 By: Patrick

1-8 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-9 AN ACT

1-10 relating to student loan repayment assistance for speech-language  
1-11 pathologists or audiologists employed by a public school or as  
1-12 faculty members of certain programs at institutions of higher  
1-13 education.

1-14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-15 SECTION 1. Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding  
1-16 Subchapter FF to read as follows:

1-17 SUBCHAPTER FF. REPAYMENT OF CERTAIN SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST  
1-18 AND AUDIOLOGIST EDUCATION LOANS

1-19 Sec. 61.9801. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

1-20 (1) "Audiologist" means a person licensed as an  
1-21 audiologist under Chapter 401, Occupations Code.

1-22 (2) "Communicative disorders program" means:

1-23 (A) a graduate degree program in audiology or  
1-24 speech-language pathology accredited by the Council on Academic  
1-25 Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology; or

1-26 (B) an undergraduate degree program that  
1-27 prepares and qualifies a student to apply for admission to a  
1-28 graduate degree program described by Paragraph (A).

1-29 (3) "Public school" means a public preschool or  
1-30 primary or secondary school in this state.

1-31 (4) "Speech-language pathologist" means a person  
1-32 licensed as a speech-language pathologist under Chapter 401,  
1-33 Occupations Code.

1-34 Sec. 61.9802. REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED. The board  
1-35 shall provide, in accordance with this subchapter and board rules,  
1-36 assistance in the repayment of student loans for speech-language  
1-37 pathologists and audiologists who apply and qualify for assistance.

1-38 Sec. 61.9803. ELIGIBILITY. (a) To be eligible to receive  
1-39 repayment assistance, a speech-language pathologist or an  
1-40 audiologist must:

1-41 (1) apply to the board; and

1-42 (2) at the time the speech-language pathologist or  
1-43 audiologist applies for the assistance:

1-44 (A) have been employed as a speech-language  
1-45 pathologist or as an audiologist, as applicable, for at least one  
1-46 year by, and be currently employed full-time in that capacity by, a  
1-47 public school; or

1-48 (B) have been employed as a faculty member of a  
1-49 communicative disorders program at an institution of higher  
1-50 education or private or independent institution of higher education  
1-51 for at least one year and be currently employed full-time in that  
1-52 capacity at such an institution.

1-53 (b) The board by rule may provide for repayment assistance  
1-54 on a pro rata basis for speech-language pathologists and  
1-55 audiologists employed part-time by a public school or by an  
1-56 institution of higher education or private or independent  
1-57 institution of higher education.

1-58 Sec. 61.9804. LIMITATION. (a) On qualifying for the  
1-59 assistance, a speech-language pathologist or an audiologist may  
1-60 receive repayment assistance grants for each year of employment,  
1-61 not to exceed five years, by:

1-62 (1) a public school; or

1-63 (2) a communicative disorders program at an

2-1 institution of higher education or private or independent  
2-2 institution of higher education.

2-3 (b) The amount of repayment assistance grants that a  
2-4 speech-language pathologist or an audiologist may receive for each  
2-5 year of employment by a public school or a communicative disorders  
2-6 program at an institution of higher education or private or  
2-7 independent institution of higher education may not exceed 20  
2-8 percent of the total amount of the unpaid principal of the  
2-9 speech-language pathologist's or audiologist's student loans, as  
2-10 determined at the end of each applicable year of employment.

2-11 (c) The total amount of repayment assistance grants  
2-12 received by a speech-language pathologist or an audiologist under  
2-13 this subchapter may not exceed \$30,000 for an eligible recipient  
2-14 who holds a master's degree but not a doctoral degree, or \$45,000  
2-15 for an eligible recipient who holds a doctoral degree.

2-16 Sec. 61.9805. ELIGIBLE LOANS. (a) The board may provide  
2-17 repayment assistance for the repayment of any student loan for  
2-18 education at any public or private institution of higher education,  
2-19 including loans for undergraduate education, received by a  
2-20 speech-language pathologist or an audiologist through any lender.

2-21 (b) Each state fiscal biennium, the board shall attempt to  
2-22 provide repayment assistance in amounts sufficient to use all the  
2-23 money appropriated to the board for that biennium for the purpose of  
2-24 providing repayment assistance under this subchapter.

2-25 Sec. 61.9806. REPAYMENT. (a) The board shall deliver any  
2-26 repayment made under this subchapter in a lump sum payable to the  
2-27 lender and the speech-language pathologist or audiologist, in  
2-28 accordance with any applicable federal law.

2-29 (b) A repayment made under this subchapter may be applied  
2-30 only to the principal amount of the loan.

2-31 Sec. 61.9807. ADVISORY COMMITTEES. The board may appoint  
2-32 advisory committees to assist the board in administering this  
2-33 subchapter.

2-34 Sec. 61.9808. ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS. The board may accept  
2-35 gifts, grants, and donations for the purposes of this subchapter.

2-36 Sec. 61.9809. RULES. (a) The board shall adopt rules  
2-37 necessary for the administration of this subchapter.

2-38 (b) The board shall distribute a copy of the rules adopted  
2-39 under this section and pertinent information regarding this  
2-40 subchapter to:

2-41 (1) each appropriate institution of higher education  
2-42 or private or independent institution of higher education;

2-43 (2) any appropriate state agency; and

2-44 (3) any appropriate professional association.

2-45 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

2-46

\* \* \* \* \*