

By: Madden

H.B. No. 1908

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to student loan repayment assistance for certain providers of correctional health care.

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

SECTION 1. Section 61.532, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 61.532. ELIGIBILITY. ~~[(a)]~~ To be eligible to receive repayment assistance, a physician must:

(1) apply to the coordinating board;

(2) at the time of application, be licensed to practice medicine under Subtitle B, Title 3, Occupations Code;

(3) have completed one, two, three, or four consecutive years of practice in a health professional shortage area designated by the Department of State Health Services; and

(4) provide health care services to:

(A) recipients under the medical assistance program authorized by Chapter 32, Human Resources Code; ~~[or]~~

(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 Youth Commission or persons confined in a secure correctional facility operated by or under contract with any division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

1 SECTION 2. Section 61.533, Education Code, is amended to  
2 read as follows:

3 Sec. 61.533. LIMITATION. (a) A physician may receive  
4 repayment assistance grants for not more than four years.

5 (b) Repayment assistance grants paid in relation to  
6 services described by Section 61.532(4)(C) are limited to the first  
7 10 physicians who establish eligibility for those grants each year.

8 SECTION 3. Subchapter E, Chapter 501, Government Code, is  
9 amended by adding Section 501.156 to read as follows:

10 Sec. 501.156. STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE. (a) From  
11 funds appropriated for purposes of correctional managed health  
12 care, the committee may provide student loan repayment assistance  
13 for medical and mental health care physicians and other staff  
14 providing correctional managed health care. The repayment  
15 assistance may be applied to any student loan received through any  
16 lender for education at a public or accredited private institution  
17 of higher education in the United States, including loans for  
18 undergraduate, graduate, and medical education.

19 (b) The committee may adopt rules to implement this section,  
20 including rules governing eligibility for the loan repayment  
21 assistance and the terms of contracts between the committee and  
22 recipients of the loan repayment assistance. In adopting those  
23 rules, the committee shall consider the requirements of Subchapter  
24 J, Chapter 61, Education Code, and the rules of the Texas Higher  
25 Education Coordinating Board adopted under that subchapter.

26 (c) A physician may not receive loan repayment assistance  
27 under both this section and Subchapter J, Chapter 61, Education

1 Code.

2 (d) Not later than December 1 of each state fiscal year, the  
3 committee shall submit a report to the Legislative Budget Board and  
4 the governor on the use of funds under this section for the  
5 preceding fiscal year.

6 SECTION 4. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board  
7 shall:

8 (1) not later than December 1, 2011, adopt any rules  
9 necessary under Sections 61.532 and 61.533, Education Code, as  
10 amended by this Act; and

11 (2) not later than January 1, 2012, begin providing as  
12 permitted by those sections student loan repayment assistance to  
13 providers of health care in secure correctional facilities.

14 SECTION 5. The Correctional Managed Health Care Committee  
15 shall:

16 (1) not later than December 1, 2011, adopt the rules  
17 for the provision of student loan repayment assistance under  
18 Section 501.156, Government Code, as added by this Act; and

19 (2) not later than January 1, 2012, begin providing  
20 student loan repayment assistance under that section.

21 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
22 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
23 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
24 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
25 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.