

1-1 By: Van de Putte S.B. No. 620
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 18, 2013; February 25, 2013,
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Higher Education;
1-4 April 15, 2013, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 6, Nays 0; April 15, 2013,
1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7	COMMITTEE VOTE				
1-8		Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-9	Seliger	X			
1-10	Watson	X			
1-11	Birdwell	X			
1-12	Duncan	X			
1-13	Patrick	X			
1-14	West			X	
1-15	Zaffirini	X			

1-16 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 620 By: Duncan

1-17 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to student loan repayment assistance for speech-language
1-20 pathologists or audiologists employed by a public school or as
1-21 faculty members of certain programs at public institutions of
1-22 higher education.

1-23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-24 SECTION 1. Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding
1-25 Subchapter II to read as follows:

1-26 SUBCHAPTER II. REPAYMENT OF CERTAIN SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST
1-27 AND AUDIOLOGIST EDUCATION LOANS

1-28 Sec. 61.9811. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

1-29 (1) "Audiologist" means a person licensed as an
1-30 audiologist under Chapter 401, Occupations Code.

1-31 (2) "Communicative disorders program" means:

1-32 (A) a graduate degree program in audiology or
1-33 speech-language pathology accredited by the Council on Academic
1-34 Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology; or

1-35 (B) an undergraduate degree program that
1-36 prepares and qualifies students for admission to a graduate degree
1-37 program described by Paragraph (A).

1-38 (3) "Public school" means a public preschool or
1-39 primary or secondary school in this state.

1-40 (4) "Speech-language pathologist" means a person
1-41 licensed as a speech-language pathologist under Chapter 401,
1-42 Occupations Code.

1-43 Sec. 61.9812. REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED. The board
1-44 shall provide, in accordance with this subchapter and board rules,
1-45 assistance in the repayment of student loans for speech-language
1-46 pathologists and audiologists who apply and qualify for assistance.

1-47 Sec. 61.9813. ELIGIBILITY. (a) To be eligible to receive
1-48 repayment assistance, a speech-language pathologist or an
1-49 audiologist must:

1-50 (1) apply to the board; and

1-51 (2) at the time the speech-language pathologist or
1-52 audiologist applies for the assistance:

1-53 (A) have been employed as a speech-language
1-54 pathologist or as an audiologist, as applicable, for at least one
1-55 year by, and be currently employed in that capacity by, a public
1-56 school; or

1-57 (B) have been employed as a faculty member of a
1-58 communicative disorders program at an institution of higher
1-59 education or private or independent institution of higher education
1-60 for at least one year, and be currently employed in that capacity at

such an institution.

(b) The board by rule may provide for repayment assistance on a pro rata basis for speech-language pathologists and audiologists employed part-time by a public school or institution of higher education.

Sec. 61.9814. LIMITATION. (a) On qualifying for the assistance, a speech-language pathologist or an audiologist may receive repayment assistance grants for each year of employment, not to exceed five years, by:

(1) a public school; or

(2) a communicative disorders program at an institution of higher education or private or independent institution of higher education.

(b) For each applicable year of employment described by Subsection (a), the total amount of repayment assistance grants received by a speech-language pathologist or an audiologist under this subchapter may not exceed:

(1) \$6,000 for an eligible recipient who holds a master's degree but not a doctoral degree; or

(2) \$9,000 for an eligible recipient who holds a doctoral degree.

Sec. 61.9815. ELIGIBLE LOANS. The board may provide repayment assistance for the repayment of any student loan, as defined by board rule, for education at any public or private institution of higher education in or outside of this state received by an eligible speech-language pathologist or audiologist.

Sec. 61.9816. REPAYMENT. (a) The board shall deliver any repayment made under this subchapter in a lump sum payable to:

(1) the lender and the speech-language pathologist or audiologist, in accordance with any applicable federal law; or

(2) the lender or other holder of the loan on behalf of the speech-language pathologist or audiologist.

(b) A repayment made under this subchapter may be applied to the principal amount and accrued interest of the loan.

Sec. 61.9817. ADVISORY COMMITTEES. The board may appoint advisory committees to assist the board in administering this subchapter.

Sec. 61.9818. PROGRAM FUNDING. The program may be funded solely from gifts, grants, and donations solicited and accepted by the board for the purposes of this subchapter.

Sec. 61.9819. RULES. (a) The board shall adopt rules necessary for the administration of this subchapter.

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

(1) each appropriate institution of higher education or private or independent institution of higher education;

(2) any appropriate state agency; and

(3) any appropriate professional association.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

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