

By: Clardy

H.B. No. 3808

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to student loan repayment assistance for certain mental health professionals.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by as follows:

Sec. 61.601. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "mental health professional" means:

(1) a licensed physician who is:

(A) a graduate of an accredited psychiatric residency training program; or

(B) certified in psychiatry by:

(i) the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology; or

(ii) the American Osteopathic Board of Neurology and Psychiatry;

(2) a psychologist, as defined by Section 501.002, Occupations Code;

(3) a licensed professional counselor, as defined by Section 503.002, Occupations Code;

(4) an advanced practice registered nurse, as defined by Section 301.152, Occupations Code, who holds a nationally recognized board certification in psychiatric or mental health nursing; ~~and~~

1 (5) a licensed clinical social worker, as defined by
2 Section 505.002, Occupations Code; and

3 (6) a licensed marriage and family therapist, as
4 defined by Section 502.002.

5 SECTION 2. Sec. 61.607(b), AMOUNT OF REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE
6 is amended to read as follows:

7 (b) The total amount of repayment assistance received by a
8 mental health professional under this subchapter may not exceed:

9 (1) \$160,000, for assistance received by a licensed
10 physician;

11 (2) \$80,000, for assistance received by:

12 (A) a psychologist;

13 (B) a licensed clinical social worker, if the
14 social worker has received a doctoral degree related to social
15 work; ~~or~~

16 (C) a licensed professional counselor, if the
17 counselor has received a doctoral degree related to counseling; or

18 (d) a licensed marriage and family therapist, if the
19 marriage and family therapist has received a doctoral degree
20 related to marriage and family therapy.

21 (3) \$60,000, for assistance received by an advanced
22 practice registered nurse; and

23 (4) \$40,000, for assistance received by a licensed
24 clinical social worker, licensed marriage and family therapist, or
25 a licensed professional counselor who is not described by
26 Subdivision (2).

27 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives

H.B. No. 3808

1 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
3 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
4 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.