

By: Allison

H.B. No. 3220

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to repayment of certain mental health professional
3 education loans.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 61.601, Education Code, as amended by
6 Chapters 891 (H.B. 3083) and 1101 (H.B. 3808), Acts of the 85th
7 Legislature, Regular Session, 2017, is reenacted and amended to
8 read as follows:

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

11 (1) a licensed physician who is:

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

14 (B) certified in psychiatry by:

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

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

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

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

23 (4) an advanced practice registered nurse, as defined
24 by Section 301.152, Occupations Code, who holds a nationally

1 recognized board certification in psychiatric or mental health
2 nursing;

3 (5) a licensed clinical social worker, as defined by
4 Section 505.002, Occupations Code; ~~and~~

5 (6) a chemical dependency counselor, as defined by
6 Section 504.001, Occupations Code;

7 (7) ~~(6)~~ a licensed marriage and family therapist, as
8 defined by Section 502.002, Occupations Code; and

9 (8) a licensed specialist in school psychology, as
10 defined by Section 501.002, Occupations Code.

11 SECTION 2. Section 61.603, Education Code, is amended to
12 read as follows:

13 Sec. 61.603. ELIGIBILITY. (a) Except as provided by
14 Subsection (b), to ~~Te~~ be eligible to receive repayment assistance
15 under this subchapter, a mental health professional must:

16 (1) apply to the board;

17 (2) have completed one, two, three, four, or five
18 consecutive years of practice in a mental health professional
19 shortage area designated by the Department of State Health
20 Services; and

21 (3) provide mental health services in this state to:

22 (A) recipients under the medical assistance
23 program authorized by Chapter 32, Human Resources Code;

24 (B) enrollees under the child health plan program
25 authorized by Chapter 62, Health and Safety Code; or

26 (C) persons committed to a secure correctional
27 facility operated by or under contract with the Texas Juvenile

1 Justice Department or persons confined in a secure correctional
2 facility operated by or under contract with any division of the
3 Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

4 (b) To be eligible to receive repayment assistance under
5 this subchapter, a mental health professional described by Section
6 61.601(8) who is employed by a school district or open-enrollment
7 charter school must:

8 (1) apply to the board;

9 (2) provide mental health services to students
10 enrolled in a school district or open-enrollment charter school;
11 and

12 (3) have completed one, two, three, four, or five
13 consecutive years of practice in this state as described by
14 Subdivision (2).

15 (c) In addition to satisfying the requirements under
16 Subsection (a), for a licensed physician to be eligible to receive
17 repayment assistance under this subchapter after the physician's
18 third consecutive year of practice described under Subsection
19 (a)(2), the physician must be certified in psychiatry by:

20 (1) the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology; or

21 (2) the American Osteopathic Board of Neurology and
22 Psychiatry.

23 SECTION 3. Sections 61.604(d) and (e), Education Code, as
24 added by Chapter 1101 (H.B. 3808), Acts of the 85th Legislature,
25 Regular Session, 2017, are amended to read as follows:

26 (d) The board may award a grant under this subchapter to a
27 mental health professional described by Section 61.601(7) or (8)

1 ~~[61.601(6)]~~ only in accordance with Subsection (e).

2 (e) If in a state fiscal year there are funds available for
3 purposes of the program after funding grants to all eligible mental
4 health professionals described by Sections ~~[Subsections]~~
5 61.601(1)-(6) ~~[61.601(1)-(5)]~~, the board may allocate any unused
6 funds to award repayment assistance grants to mental health
7 professionals in any of the professions listed in Section 61.601
8 except that priority must be given to awarding grants to mental
9 health professionals described by Sections ~~[Subsections]~~
10 61.601(1)-(6) ~~[61.601(1)-(5)]~~. The limitations prescribed by
11 Subsections (b) and (c) do not apply to grants awarded under this
12 subsection.

13 SECTION 4. Section 61.607(b), Education Code, as amended by
14 Chapters 891 (H.B. 3083) and 1101 (H.B. 3808), Acts of the 85th
15 Legislature, Regular Session, 2017, is reenacted and amended to
16 read as follows:

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

19 (1) \$160,000, for assistance from the state received
20 by a licensed physician;

21 (2) \$80,000, for assistance from the state received
22 by:

23 (A) a psychologist;

24 (B) a licensed clinical social worker, if the
25 social worker has received a doctoral degree related to social
26 work;

27 (C) a licensed professional counselor, if the

1 counselor has received a doctoral degree related to counseling; or

2 (D) a licensed marriage and family therapist, if
3 the marriage and family therapist has received a doctoral degree
4 related to marriage and family therapy;

5 (3) \$60,000, for assistance from the state received by
6 an advanced practice registered nurse;

7 (4) \$40,000, for assistance from the state received by
8 a licensed clinical social worker, a licensed marriage and family
9 therapist, or a licensed professional counselor who is not
10 described by Subdivision (2); and

11 (5) \$10,000, for assistance from the state received
12 by:

13 (A) a licensed chemical dependency counselor, if
14 the chemical dependency counselor has received an associate degree
15 related to chemical dependency counseling or behavioral science; or

16 (B) a licensed specialist in school psychology.

17 SECTION 5. The following provisions are repealed:

18 (1) Section 61.604(d), Education Code, as added by
19 Chapter 891 (H.B. 3083), Acts of the 85th Legislature, Regular
20 Session, 2017; and

21 (2) Section 61.608(c), Education Code, as added by
22 Chapter 891 (H.B. 3083), Acts of the 85th Legislature, Regular
23 Session, 2017.

24 SECTION 6. To the extent of any conflict, this Act prevails
25 over another Act of the 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019,
26 relating to nonsubstantive additions to and corrections in enacted
27 codes.

1 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.