

1-1 By: Powell S.B. No. 2300  
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 8, 2019; March 21, 2019, read  
 1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Higher Education;  
 1-4 April 25, 2019, reported adversely, with favorable Committee  
 1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0; April 25, 2019,  
 1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

|      | Yea | Nay | Absent | PNV |
|------|-----|-----|--------|-----|
| 1-8  |     |     |        |     |
| 1-9  | X   |     |        |     |
| 1-10 | X   |     |        |     |
| 1-11 | X   |     |        |     |
| 1-12 | X   |     |        |     |
| 1-13 | X   |     |        |     |
| 1-14 | X   |     |        |     |
| 1-15 | X   |     |        |     |
| 1-16 | X   |     |        |     |
| 1-17 | X   |     |        |     |

1-18 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 2300 By: Menéndez

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
 1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to student loan repayment assistance for certain nurses  
 1-22 employed by a long-term care facility.

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 N to read as follows:

1-26 SUBCHAPTER N. REPAYMENT OF EDUCATION LOANS FOR CERTAIN NURSES

1-27 Sec. 61.731. LOAN REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED. The  
 1-28 board shall provide, in accordance with this subchapter and board  
 1-29 rules, assistance in the repayment of eligible student loans for  
 1-30 eligible nurses who apply and qualify for the assistance.

1-31 Sec. 61.732. ELIGIBILITY. To be eligible to receive loan  
 1-32 repayment assistance under this subchapter, a nurse must:

1-33 (1) apply to the board in a manner prescribed by the  
 1-34 board;

1-35 (2) be an advanced practice registered nurse,  
 1-36 registered nurse, or licensed vocational nurse; and

1-37 (3) at the time of application for repayment  
 1-38 assistance have been employed full-time for at least one year by,  
 1-39 and currently be employed full-time by:

1-40 (A) a convalescent or nursing facility, as  
 1-41 defined by Chapter 242, Health and Safety Code; or

1-42 (B) a continuing care facility, as defined by  
 1-43 Chapter 246, Health and Safety Code.

1-44 Sec. 61.733. LIMITATIONS. A nurse may receive loan  
 1-45 repayment assistance under this subchapter for not more than five  
 1-46 years.

1-47 Sec. 61.734. ELIGIBLE LOANS. (a) The board may provide  
 1-48 loan repayment assistance under this subchapter for the repayment  
 1-49 of any student loan for education at an institution of higher  
 1-50 education, a private or independent institution of higher  
 1-51 education, or a public or private out-of-state institution of  
 1-52 higher education accredited by a recognized accrediting agency,  
 1-53 including loans for undergraduate education, received by an  
 1-54 eligible person through any lender.

1-55 (b) The board may not provide repayment assistance for a  
 1-56 student loan that is in default at the time of the person's  
 1-57 application.

1-58 (c) In each state fiscal biennium, the board shall attempt  
 1-59 to allocate all funds appropriated to the board for the purpose of  
 1-60 providing loan repayment assistance under this subchapter.

2-1 Sec. 61.735. REPAYMENT. (a) The board shall deliver any  
2-2 repayment under this subchapter in a lump sum payable:

2-3 (1) to both the lender or other holder of the loan and  
2-4 the nurse; or

2-5 (2) directly to the lender or other holder of the loan  
2-6 on the nurse's behalf.

2-7 (b) A repayment under this subchapter may be applied to any  
2-8 amount due in connection with the loan.

2-9 Sec. 61.736. AMOUNT OF REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE. (a) A nurse  
2-10 may receive loan repayment assistance under this subchapter for  
2-11 each year the nurse establishes eligibility for the assistance in  
2-12 an amount determined by the board.

2-13 (b) The total amount of loan repayment assistance provided  
2-14 under this subchapter may not exceed the sum of:

2-15 (1) the total amount of gifts and grants accepted by  
2-16 the board for the repayment assistance;

2-17 (2) legislative appropriations for the repayment  
2-18 assistance; and

2-19 (3) other funds available to the board for the  
2-20 repayment assistance.

2-21 (c) The board may adjust in an equitable manner the  
2-22 distribution amounts that nurses would otherwise receive under  
2-23 Subsection (a) for a year as necessary to comply with Subsection  
2-24 (b).

2-25 Sec. 61.737. RULES; ADMINISTRATION. (a) The board shall  
2-26 adopt rules necessary to administer this subchapter.

2-27 (b) The board shall distribute to each institution of higher  
2-28 education or private or independent institution of higher education  
2-29 and to any appropriate state agency and professional association  
2-30 copies of the rules adopted under this section and other pertinent  
2-31 information relating to this subchapter.

2-32 (c) The board shall administer the program under this  
2-33 subchapter in a manner that maximizes any matching funds available  
2-34 through other sources.

2-35 (d) A reasonable amount, not to exceed three percent, of any  
2-36 money appropriated for purposes of this subchapter may be used to  
2-37 pay the costs of administering this subchapter.

2-38 Sec. 61.738. SOLICITATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS. The  
2-39 board may solicit and accept gifts and grants from any public or  
2-40 private source for the purposes of this subchapter.

2-41 SECTION 2. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board is  
2-42 required to provide assistance in the repayment of eligible student  
2-43 loans for eligible nurses as provided by this Act only if the  
2-44 legislature appropriates money specifically for that purpose. If  
2-45 the legislature does not appropriate money specifically for that  
2-46 purpose, the board may, but is not required to, provide assistance  
2-47 in the repayment of eligible student loans for eligible nurses as  
2-48 provided by this Act using other appropriations available for that  
2-49 purpose.

2-50 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

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