

By: Anchía

H.B. No. 1551

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 61.603(a), Education Code, is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (a) To be eligible to receive repayment assistance under
8 this subchapter, a mental health professional must:

9 (1) apply to the board;

10 (2) have completed one, two, or three~~[, four, or five]~~
11 consecutive years of practice in a mental health professional
12 shortage area designated by the Department of State Health
13 Services; and

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

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

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

19 (C) persons committed to a secure correctional
20 facility operated by or under contract with the Texas Juvenile
21 Justice Department or persons confined in a secure correctional
22 facility operated by or under contract with any division of the
23 Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

24 SECTION 2. Section 61.604(a), Education Code, is amended to

1 read as follows:

2 (a) A mental health professional may receive repayment
3 assistance under this subchapter for not more than three [~~five~~]
4 years.

5 SECTION 3. Section 61.607(a), Education Code, is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (a) A mental health professional may receive repayment
8 assistance under this subchapter for each year the mental health
9 professional establishes eligibility for the assistance in an
10 amount determined by applying the following applicable percentage
11 to the maximum total amount of assistance allowed for the mental
12 health professional under Subsection (b):

- 13 (1) for the first year, 33.33 [~~10~~] percent;
14 (2) for the second year, 33.33 [~~15~~] percent; and
15 (3) for the third year, 33.33 [~~20~~] percent [~~+~~
16 [~~(4) for the fourth year, 25 percent, and~~
17 [~~(5) for the fifth year, 30 percent~~].

18 SECTION 4. Section 61.608, Education Code, is amended by
19 adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

20 (e) The board shall administer the program under this
21 subchapter in a manner that, as program openings occur, allows for
22 the continuous:

- 23 (1) approval or disapproval of applications;
24 (2) determination of applicant eligibility; and
25 (3) acceptance of eligible applicants into the
26 program.

27 SECTION 5. Section 61.603(b), Education Code, is repealed.

1 SECTION 6. The changes in law made by this Act to Sections
2 61.603 and 61.607(a), Education Code, apply only to a person who
3 first establishes eligibility for loan repayment assistance under
4 Subchapter K, Chapter 61, Education Code, as amended by this Act, on
5 the basis of an application submitted on or after September 1, 2023.
6 A person who first establishes eligibility on the basis of an
7 application submitted before September 1, 2023, is governed by the
8 law in effect at the time the application was submitted, and the
9 former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

10 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.