

By: West, et al.

S.B. No. 532

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, Education Code, is amended to
6 read as follows:

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

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

15 (3) provide mental health services in this state to:
16 (A) recipients under the medical assistance
17 program authorized by Chapter 32, Human Resources Code;

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

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

1 (b) A mental health professional may also establish
2 eligibility for the repayment assistance under this subchapter by
3 satisfying the requirements of this subsection. To establish
4 eligibility under this subsection, the mental health professional
5 must:

6 (1) apply to the board;

7 (2) provide mental health services to:

8 (A) patients in a state hospital, as defined by
9 Section 552.0011, Health and Safety Code; or

10 (B) individuals receiving community-based mental
11 health services from a local mental health authority that provides
12 the services in accordance with Subchapter B, Chapter 534, Health
13 and Safety Code; and

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

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

21 ~~[(1) the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology,~~

22 ~~or~~

23 ~~[(2) the American Osteopathic Board of Neurology and~~
24 ~~Psychiatry.]~~

25 SECTION 2. Section 61.604(a), Education Code, is amended to
26 read as follows:

27 (a) A mental health professional may receive repayment

1 assistance under this subchapter for not more than three [~~five~~]
2 years.

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 SECTION 5. The changes in law made by this Act to Sections
26 61.603, 61.604(a), and 61.607(a), Education Code, apply only to a
27 person who first establishes eligibility for loan repayment

1 assistance under Subchapter K, Chapter 61, Education Code, as
2 amended by this Act, on the basis of an application submitted on or
3 after September 1, 2023. A person who first establishes
4 eligibility on the basis of an application submitted before
5 September 1, 2023, is governed by the law in effect at the time the
6 application was submitted, and the former law is continued in
7 effect for that purpose.

8 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.