

1-1 By: West, et al. S.B. No. 532
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed January 20, 2023; February 17, 2023,
 1-3 read first time and referred to Subcommittee on Higher Education;
 1-4 April 11, 2023, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
 1-5 Substitute from Committee on Education by the following vote:
 1-6 Yeas 12, Nays 0; April 11, 2023, 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	X			
1-19	X			
1-20	X			
1-21	X			

1-22 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 532 By: Springer

1-23 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-24 AN ACT

1-25 relating to repayment of certain mental health professional
 1-26 education loans.

1-27 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-28 SECTION 1. Section 61.603, Education Code, is amended to
 1-29 read as follows:

1-30 Sec. 61.603. ELIGIBILITY. (a) Except as provided by
 1-31 Subsection (b), to [Te] be eligible to receive repayment assistance
 1-32 under this subchapter, a mental health professional must:

1-33 (1) apply to the board;

1-34 (2) have completed one, two, or three ~~[, four, or five]~~
 1-35 consecutive years of practice in a mental health professional
 1-36 shortage area designated by the Department of State Health
 1-37 Services; and

1-38 (3) provide mental health services in this state to:

1-39 (A) recipients under the medical assistance
 1-40 program authorized by Chapter 32, Human Resources Code;

1-41 (B) enrollees under the child health plan program
 1-42 authorized by Chapter 62, Health and Safety Code; or

1-43 (C) persons committed to a secure correctional
 1-44 facility operated by or under contract with the Texas Juvenile
 1-45 Justice Department or persons confined in a secure correctional
 1-46 facility operated by or under contract with any division of the
 1-47 Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

1-48 (b) A mental health professional may also establish
 1-49 eligibility for the repayment assistance under this subchapter by
 1-50 satisfying the requirements of this subsection. To establish
 1-51 eligibility under this subsection, the mental health professional
 1-52 must:

1-53 (1) apply to the board;

1-54 (2) provide mental health services to:

1-55 (A) patients in a state hospital, as defined by
 1-56 Section 552.0011, Health and Safety Code; or

1-57 (B) individuals receiving community-based mental
 1-58 health services from a local mental health authority that provides
 1-59 the services in accordance with Subchapter B, Chapter 534, Health
 1-60 and Safety Code; and

2-1 (3) have completed one, two, or three consecutive
2-2 years of practice in this state as described by Subdivision (2).
2-3 ~~[In addition to satisfying the requirements under Subsection (a),~~
2-4 ~~for a licensed physician to be eligible to receive repayment~~
2-5 ~~assistance under this subchapter after the physician's third~~
2-6 ~~consecutive year of practice described under Subsection (a)(2), the~~
2-7 ~~physician must be certified in psychiatry by:~~

- 2-8 ~~[(1) the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology,~~
- 2-9 ~~or~~
- 2-10 ~~[(2) the American Osteopathic Board of Neurology and~~
- 2-11 ~~Psychiatry.]~~

2-12 SECTION 2. Section 61.604(a), Education Code, is amended to
2-13 read as follows:

2-14 (a) A mental health professional may receive repayment
2-15 assistance under this subchapter for not more than three ~~[five]~~
2-16 years.

2-17 SECTION 3. Section 61.607(a), Education Code, is amended to
2-18 read as follows:

2-19 (a) A mental health professional may receive repayment
2-20 assistance under this subchapter for each year the mental health
2-21 professional establishes eligibility for the assistance in an
2-22 amount determined by applying the following applicable percentage
2-23 to the maximum total amount of assistance allowed for the mental
2-24 health professional under Subsection (b):

- 2-25 (1) for the first year, 33.33 ~~[10]~~ percent;
- 2-26 (2) for the second year, 33.33 ~~[15]~~ percent; and
- 2-27 (3) for the third year, 33.33 ~~[20]~~ percent; ~~+~~
- 2-28 ~~[(4) for the fourth year, 25 percent; and~~
- 2-29 ~~[(5) for the fifth year, 30 percent].~~

2-30 SECTION 4. Section 61.608, Education Code, is amended by
2-31 adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

2-32 (e) The board shall administer the program under this
2-33 subchapter in a manner that, as program openings occur, allows for
2-34 the continuous:

- 2-35 (1) approval or disapproval of applications;
 - 2-36 (2) determination of applicant eligibility; and
 - 2-37 (3) acceptance of eligible applicants into the
- 2-38 program.

2-39 SECTION 5. The changes in law made by this Act to Sections
2-40 61.603, 61.604(a), and 61.607(a), Education Code, apply only to a
2-41 person who first establishes eligibility for loan repayment
2-42 assistance under Subchapter K, Chapter 61, Education Code, as
2-43 amended by this Act, on the basis of an application submitted on or
2-44 after September 1, 2023. A person who first establishes
2-45 eligibility on the basis of an application submitted before
2-46 September 1, 2023, is governed by the law in effect at the time the
2-47 application was submitted, and the former law is continued in
2-48 effect for that purpose.

2-49 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

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