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Subject: Loan forgiveness and scholarship programs for individuals who provide long-term care services; administration of medications by unlicensed personnel

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Overview

This bill modifies loan forgiveness and scholarship programs for individuals who provide long-term care; codifies an existing rule related to the administration of medications by unlicensed personnel in nursing facilities; and appropriates money for the home and community-based services employee scholarship program.

Section

- 1 **Creation of account.** Amends § 144.1501, subd. 2. Expands the category of nurses eligible for loan forgiveness through the health professional education loan forgiveness program, to include nurses who agree to practice in a housing with services establishment or practice with a home care provider.
- 2 **Administration of medications by unlicensed personnel.** Adds § 144A.189. Allows the director of nursing services to delegate medication administration at a nursing facility to unlicensed personnel who have completed a nursing assistant training program and a standardized medication administration training program for unlicensed nursing home personnel. Requires a nursing home to maintain documentation of the unlicensed personnel's course completion, and authorizes unlicensed personnel who satisfy the requirements of subdivisions 1 and 2 to administer certain medications.

(An almost identical provision is found in Minnesota Rules, part 4658.1360, which is being repealed in section 6 of this bill. The differences between this section and the language in rules are: (1) this section includes a cross-reference in subdivision 1 to the definition of "practice of practical nursing" in the nurse licensure statutes, and the rule includes a cross-

Section

reference to the definition of “practice of professional nursing”; and (2) this section corrects a cross-reference to medication administration authority in the Nurse Practice Act.)

- 3 Scholarships.** Amends § 256R.37. Amends language governing nursing facility employee scholarships eligible for a scholarship per diem in nursing facility rates from the commissioner of human services, to include:
- scholarships to reimburse loan expenses for any newly hired nurses, not only nurses who have recently graduated; and
 - scholarships to reimburse training expenses for any newly hired nursing assistants, not only nursing assistants who have graduated in the past 12 months.
- 4 Appropriation; home and community-based services employee scholarship program.** Makes blank appropriations for the 2018-2019 biennium from the general fund to the commissioner of health for the home and community-based services employee scholarship program.
- 5 Revisor’s instruction.** Directs the revisor to correct cross-references to the rule repealed in section 6.
- 6 Repealer.** Repeals Minnesota Rules, part 4658.1360; almost identical text is being codified in section 144A.189 (section 2 of this bill).