

Subject Health professional education loan forgiveness program

Authors Wolgamott and Norris

Analyst Elisabeth Klarqvist

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Overview

This bill expands eligibility for loan forgiveness under the health professional education loan forgiveness program to allied health care technicians who agree to practice in a Minnesota health care facility, clinic, or setting for at least two years, and expands the settings in which nurses may practice and be eligible for loan forgiveness. It also increases the annual disbursement amount for nurses and health care technicians who receive loan forgiveness and appropriates money for the loan forgiveness program.

Summary

| Section | Description |
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| 1 | Definitions. |
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| | Amends § 144.1501, subd. 1. Adds a definition for allied health care technician to the definitions for the health professional education loan forgiveness program, and defines allied health care technician as a medical laboratory technologist, medical laboratory technician, respiratory therapist, radiology technologist, or surgical technologist. |
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| 2 | Creation of account. |
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| | Amends § 144.1501, subd. 2. Expands the settings in which a nurse may practice and be eligible for loan forgiveness, to allows a nurse to be eligible for loan forgiveness if the nurse agrees to practice in a Minnesota health care facility, health clinic, or health care setting (under current law a nurse is eligible if the nurse agrees to practice in a nursing home, intermediate care facility for persons with developmental disabilities, or certain hospitals, or for a home care provider). Allows an allied health care technician to be eligible for loan forgiveness if the technician agrees to practice in a Minnesota health care facility, health clinic, or health care setting, and makes technical changes. |
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| Section | Description |
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| 3 | <p>Eligibility.</p> <p>Amends § 144.1501, subd. 3. To receive loan forgiveness, requires an allied health care technician who is selected for the program to sign a contract to practice in a Minnesota health care facility, health clinic, or health care setting for at least two years beginning no later than March 31 following completion of the required training. Also makes technical changes.</p> |
| 4 | <p>Loan forgiveness.</p> <p>Amends § 144.1501, subd. 4. Under current law a participant receiving loan forgiveness receives a disbursement of 15 percent of the average educational debt for indebted graduates in their profession in the year closest to the applicant's selection for which information is available, not to exceed the balance of the participant's loans. This section increases the disbursement amount for nurses and health care technicians to, and sets the disbursement amount for allied health care technicians at, 30 percent of the average educational debt for indebted graduates in their profession, not to exceed the balance of the participant's loans. Also makes technical changes.</p> |
| 5 | <p>Trauma Advisory Council established.</p> <p>Amends § 144.608, subd. 1. Modifies cross-references to conform with the relettering of paragraphs in section 144.1501, subd. 1. Also updates terms.</p> |
| 6 | <p>Appropriation; health professional education loan forgiveness program.</p> <p>Appropriates \$5,000,000 in fiscal year 2024 and \$5,000,000 in fiscal year 2025 from the general fund to the commissioner of health for the health professional education loan forgiveness program, and sets bases for this appropriation at \$5,000,000 in fiscal year 2026, \$5,000,000 in fiscal year 2027, and \$0 in fiscal year 2028.</p> |



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