

Senate Study Bill 3079 - Introduced

SENATE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON
HUMAN RESOURCES BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON RAGAN)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act creating a licensed social worker loan repayment program
2 and a revolving fund.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 261.113 Licensed social worker loan
2 repayment program.

3 1. A licensed social worker loan repayment program is
4 established, to be administered by the college student aid
5 commission for the purpose of increasing the number of social
6 workers serving in critical human service areas. For purposes
7 of this section, "*critical human service area*" includes but
8 is not limited to an area of the state with a shortage of
9 social workers providing health, mental health, substance
10 abuse, aging, HIV/AIDS, victim, or child welfare services,
11 or communities with multilingual needs. These areas shall
12 be designated by the college student aid commission, in
13 consultation with a committee comprised of one representative
14 each from the commission, the department of public health, and
15 the department of human services.

16 2. The contract for the loan repayment shall stipulate the
17 time period the licensed social worker shall practice in a
18 critical human service area. In addition, the contract shall
19 stipulate that the licensed social worker repay any funds paid
20 on the person's loan by the commission if the person fails to
21 practice in a critical human service area for the required
22 period of time.

23 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 261.114 Licensed social worker loan
24 repayment revolving fund.

25 1. A licensed social worker loan repayment revolving fund
26 is created in the state treasury as a separate fund under
27 the control of the commission. The commission shall deposit
28 payments made by program participants under section 261.113,
29 subsection 2, moneys appropriated for purposes of the licensed
30 social worker loan repayment program, and any other available
31 funds into the loan repayment revolving fund. Moneys in the
32 fund shall be used for purposes of the licensed social worker
33 loan repayment program. Notwithstanding section 8.33, moneys
34 deposited in the fund shall not revert to any fund of the state
35 at the end of any fiscal year but shall remain in the fund and

1 be continuously available for the program.

2 2. Notwithstanding section 12C.7, subsection 2, interest
3 or earnings on moneys deposited in the fund shall be credited
4 to the fund.

5 3. *a.* The annual amount of loan repayment is six thousand
6 five hundred dollars for individuals who have provided
7 full-time social work services in a critical human service
8 area in the year prior to such application, provided that
9 no recipient shall receive loan repayment that exceeds the
10 total remaining balance of the student loan debt and that
11 no recipient shall receive cumulative awards in excess of
12 twenty-five thousand dollars.

13 *b.* Awards shall be within the amounts appropriated for such
14 purpose and based on availability of funds.

15 4. Loan repayment awards shall be made annually to
16 applicants in the following order of priority:

17 *a.* First priority is given to applicants who have received
18 payment of an award pursuant to this section in a prior year
19 and who have provided social work services in a critical human
20 service area in the year prior to such application.

21 *b.* Second priority is given to applicants who have not
22 received payment of an award pursuant to this section in
23 a prior year and who have provided social work services
24 in a critical human service area in the year prior to such
25 application.

26 *c.* Third priority is given to applicants who are
27 economically disadvantaged, as defined by the commission.

28 5. The commission shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A
29 to administer this section.

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EXPLANATION

31 This bill creates a licensed social worker loan repayment
32 program administered by the college student aid commission.
33 Applicants for the program must enter into an agreement with
34 the commission, agreeing to work for a specific period of time
35 in a "critical human service area", defined as a geographic

1 area in Iowa with a shortage of social workers in health,
2 mental health, substance abuse, aging, HIV/AIDS, victim, or
3 child welfare concerns, or communities with multilingual needs.

4 The program provides a specific annual benefit, up to
5 \$6,500, for licensed social workers who have worked in a
6 critical human service area in the previous year. No recipient
7 shall receive loan repayment that exceeds the total remaining
8 balance of the student loan debt and no recipient shall receive
9 cumulative awards in excess of \$25,000.

10 The program is funded by a special revolving fund in
11 the state treasury, controlled by the college student aid
12 commission. The fund consists of moneys appropriated for
13 purposes of the program, repayments by participants who fail
14 to meet the service area requirements, and any other available
15 moneys. Moneys deposited in the fund do not revert to the
16 state at the end of any fiscal year but shall remain in the fund
17 and be continuously available for the program. Interest or
18 earnings on moneys deposited in the fund shall also be credited
19 to the fund.