

Senate File 299 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 299
BY DANIELSON

(COMPANION TO LSB 2347HH BY
KRESSIG)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act modifying the rural Iowa advanced registered nurse
2 practitioner and physician assistant loan repayment program
3 and fund and making occupational therapy students eligible
4 for the program.
5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 261.114, subsections 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, and
2 10, Code 2017, are amended to read as follows:

3 1. *Program established.* A rural Iowa advanced registered
4 ~~nurse practitioner and physician assistant health care~~
5 professional loan repayment program is established to be
6 administered by the college student aid commission for purposes
7 of providing loan repayments for advanced registered nurse
8 practitioner students, occupational therapy students, and
9 physician assistant students who agree to practice ~~as advanced~~
10 ~~registered nurse practitioners or physician assistants as~~
11 such in service commitment areas for five years and meet the
12 requirements of **this section**.

13 2. *Eligibility.* An individual is eligible to apply to enter
14 into a program agreement with the commission if the individual
15 is enrolled full-time in and receives a recommendation from
16 an eligible university in a curriculum leading to a doctorate
17 of nursing practice degree, a master's or doctorate of
18 occupational therapy degree, or a masters master's of physician
19 assistant studies degree.

20 3. *Program agreements.* A program agreement shall be
21 entered into by an eligible student and the commission when the
22 eligible student begins the final year of study in an academic
23 program leading to eligibility for licensure as a nurse
24 practitioner, occupational therapist, or physician assistant.
25 Under the agreement, to receive loan repayments pursuant to
26 subsection 5, an eligible student shall agree to and shall
27 fulfill all of the following requirements:

28 a. Receive a graduate-level credential qualifying the
29 credential recipient for a license to practice as an advanced
30 registered nurse practitioner pursuant to **chapter 152**, an
31 occupational therapist pursuant to chapter 148B, or a physician
32 assistant pursuant to **chapter 148C**.

33 b. Within nine months of receiving a degree and obtaining
34 a license in accordance with paragraph "a", engage in
35 the full-time practice as an advanced registered nurse

1 practitioner, an occupational therapist, or a physician
2 assistant for a period of five consecutive years in the service
3 commitment area specified under subsection 6, unless the loan
4 repayment recipient receives a waiver from the commission to
5 complete the years of practice required under the agreement in
6 another service commitment area pursuant to subsection 6.

7 *7. Rules for additional loan repayment.* The commission
8 shall adopt rules to provide, in addition to loan repayment
9 provided to eligible students pursuant to this section
10 and subject to the availability of surplus funds, loan
11 repayment to an advanced registered nurse practitioner, an
12 occupational therapist, or a physician assistant who, as
13 provided in subsection 3, received a degree from an eligible
14 university, obtained a license to practice in this state, and
15 is engaged in full-time practice as an advanced registered
16 nurse practitioner, an occupational therapist, or a physician
17 assistant in a service commitment area.

18 *8. Part-time practice — agreement amended.* A person who
19 entered into an agreement pursuant to subsection 3 may apply
20 to the commission to amend the agreement to allow the person
21 to engage in less than the full-time practice specified in
22 the agreement and under subsection 3. If the commission
23 determines exceptional circumstances exist, the commission
24 and the person may consent to amend the agreement under which
25 the person shall engage in less than full-time practice as
26 an advanced registered nurse practitioner, an occupational
27 therapist, or a physician assistant in a service commitment
28 area for an extended period of part-time practice determined by
29 the commission to be proportional to the amount of full-time
30 practice remaining under the original agreement.

31 *10. Trust fund established.* A rural Iowa advanced
32 registered nurse practitioner and physician assistant health
33 care professional trust fund is created in the state treasury
34 as a separate fund under the control of the commission.
35 The commission shall remit all repayments made pursuant to

1 this section to the rural Iowa advanced registered nurse
2 ~~practitioner and physician assistant health care professional~~
3 trust fund. All moneys deposited or paid into the trust fund
4 are appropriated and made available to the commission to be
5 used for meeting the requirements of **this section**. Moneys in
6 the fund up to the total amount that an eligible student may
7 receive for an eligible loan in accordance with **this section**
8 and upon fulfilling the requirements of **subsection 3** shall be
9 considered encumbered for the duration of the agreement entered
10 into pursuant to **subsection 3**. Notwithstanding **section 8.33**,
11 any balance in the fund on June 30 of each fiscal year shall not
12 revert to the general fund of the state, but shall be available
13 for purposes of **this section** in subsequent fiscal years.

14 Sec. 2. Section 261.114, subsection 9, paragraph c,
15 subparagraph (3), Code 2017, is amended to read as follows:

16 (3) The person who entered into the agreement, due to a
17 permanent disability, is unable to practice as an advanced
18 registered nurse practitioner, occupational therapist, or
19 physician assistant.

20 Sec. 3. Section 261.114, subsection 11, paragraph c, Code
21 2017, is amended to read as follows:

22 *c.* "Service commitment area" means a city in Iowa with a
23 population of less than twenty-six thousand that is located
24 more than twenty miles from a city with a population of
25 fifty thousand or more and which provides a two thousand
26 dollar contribution for deposit in the rural Iowa advanced
27 registered nurse practitioner and physician assistant health
28 care professional trust fund for each advanced registered nurse
29 practitioner, occupational therapist, or physician assistant in
30 the community who is participating in the rural Iowa advanced
31 registered nurse practitioner and physician assistant health
32 care professional loan repayment program.

33 EXPLANATION

34 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
35 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

1 This bill modifies the rural Iowa advanced registered nurse
2 practitioner and physician assistant loan repayment program and
3 fund by changing the names of the program and fund to the rural
4 Iowa health professional loan repayment program and rural Iowa
5 health professional loan repayment trust fund, and by making
6 occupational therapy students eligible for the program.

7 Currently, an eligible student may enter into a program
8 agreement in the student's final year of study in an academic
9 program leading to eligibility for licensure as a nurse
10 practitioner or physician assistant. Under the agreement,
11 to receive loan repayments, an eligible student must receive
12 a graduate-level credential and license to practice as an
13 advanced registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant
14 and, within nine months of receiving the degree and obtaining
15 a license, must engage in full-time practice as an advanced
16 registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant for a
17 period of five consecutive years in a service commitment area,
18 which is defined as a city in Iowa with a population of less
19 than 26,000 that is located more than 20 miles from a city with
20 a population of 50,000 or more and which provides a \$2,000
21 contribution for deposit in the trust fund for each advanced
22 registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant in the
23 community who is participating in the program.

24 The maximum amount of loan repayment an eligible student can
25 receive under the agreement is \$4,000 annually for up to five
26 consecutive years and a total of \$20,000.