

STATE OF NEW YORK

7377

IN SENATE

January 10, 2018

Introduced by Sen. RITCHIE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to creating the New York state rural doctors and nurses loan forgiveness incentive program

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new section 679-j
2 to read as follows:

3 § 679-j. New York state rural doctors and nurses loan forgiveness
4 incentive program. 1. Purpose. The president shall grant student loan
5 forgiveness awards for the purpose of attracting doctors and nurses to
6 be employed in rural areas throughout New York state on a full-time
7 basis. For purposes of this section, "rural" shall mean a tract or coun-
8 ty defined by the health resources and services administration as being
9 rural or eligible for a rural health grant. Such awards shall be made
10 by the corporation to applicants who meet the eligibility criteria
11 pursuant to subdivision two of this section.

12 2. Eligibility. To be eligible for an award pursuant to this section,
13 applicants shall:

14 (a) have graduated and obtained a degree from an approved New York
15 state college or university;

16 (b) have an outstanding student loan debt from obtaining such degree;

17 (c) be employed as a doctor of medicine, doctor of osteopathy, profes-
18 sional or practical nurse, nurse practitioner, or clinical nurse
19 specialist in New York state in accordance with sections sixty-five
20 hundred twenty-four, sixty-nine hundred five, sixty-nine hundred six,
21 sixty-nine hundred ten and sixty-nine hundred eleven of this chapter;

22 (d) apply for this program within two years of receiving such profes-
23 sional license;

24 (e) comply with subdivisions three and five of section six hundred
25 sixty-one of this part; and

26 (f) make a commitment to practice in a rural area for the duration of
27 the award.

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 3. Awards. The corporation shall grant such awards within amounts
2 appropriated for such purposes and based on availability of funds
3 according to a schedule to be determined by the corporation, which
4 provides for an increased award amount for an increased length of
5 employment in eligible rural areas.

6 4. Rules and regulations. The corporation is authorized to promulgate
7 rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of the provisions
8 of this section.

9 § 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall
10 have become a law.