

# STATE OF NEW YORK

5552--B

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

April 11, 2017

Introduced by Sens. RITCHIE, KENNEDY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Higher Education -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- reported favorably from said committee and committed to the Committee on Finance -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to providing loan forgiveness for mental health nurses

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 mental health nurse loan forgiveness incentive  
4 program. 1. Purpose. The president shall grant student loan forgiveness  
5 awards for the purpose of alleviating the burden of student loan debt  
6 for mental health nurses in New York state. Such awards shall be made on  
7 a competitive basis as promulgated by the corporation for such purposes,  
8 to applicants who meet the eligibility criteria. Such rules and regu-  
9 lations shall include provisions for the consideration of applicants who  
10 are economically disadvantaged.

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

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

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

16 (c) be employed as a professional or practical nurse, nurse practi-  
17 tioner, or clinical nurse specialist in New York state in accordance  
18 with sections six thousand nine hundred five, six thousand nine hundred  
19 six, six thousand nine hundred ten and six thousand nine hundred eleven  
20 of this chapter;

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

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1 (d) apply for this program within two years of college graduation; and  
2 (e) comply with subdivisions three and five of section six hundred  
3 sixty-one of this part;

4 (f) make a commitment to practice in a tract or county defined by the  
5 health resources and services administration as being "rural" or eligi-  
6 ble for a rural health grant; and

7 (g) make a commitment to practice in state psychiatric hospitals,  
8 hospital in-patient psychiatric units, addiction treatment centers,  
9 behavioral health clinics or a county run mental health program for the  
10 duration of the award.

11 3. Awards. The corporation shall grant such awards within amounts  
12 appropriated for such purposes and based on the availability of funds.

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