

STATE OF NEW YORK

1264

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 8, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. MAGNARELLI -- read once and referred to the
Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to regents professional
education scholarships, health care professional opportunity scholar-
ships and loan forgiveness for nurses

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision 3 of section 605 of the education law, as
2 amended by chapter 31 of the laws of 1985, is amended to read as
3 follows:

4 3. Regents professional education in medicine [~~ex~~], dentistry, or
5 nursing scholarships. Regents professional education in medicine [~~ex~~],
6 dentistry, or nursing scholarships shall be awarded annually, on a
7 competitive basis, to students beginning professional study in medicine
8 [~~ex~~], dentistry, or nursing. One hundred such scholarships shall be
9 awarded annually to students beginning professional study in medicine
10 and two thousand such scholarships to students beginning professional
11 study in nursing, and shall be classified and allocated in accordance
12 with regents rules. The provisions of this subdivision shall only apply
13 to any recipient who receives his or her first award payment prior to
14 the nineteen hundred eighty-five--nineteen hundred eighty-six academic
15 year. Further, the provisions of this subdivision shall only apply to a
16 student studying to be a registered professional nurse as defined in
17 section sixty-nine hundred three of this chapter.

18 § 2. Subdivision 9 of section 605 of the education law, as amended by
19 chapter 523 of the laws of 1992 and subparagraph 3 of paragraph a as
20 amended by section 89 of subpart B of part C of chapter 62 of the laws
21 of 2011, is amended to read as follows:

22 9. Regents physician and nursing loan forgiveness program. Regents
23 physician and nursing loan forgiveness awards shall be awarded annually
24 to physicians and nurses who agree to practice medicine or nursing in an

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

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1 area of New York state designated by the regents as having a shortage of
2 physicians or nurses. Such awards shall be classified and allocated in
3 accordance with regents rules.

4 a. Eligibility. (1) The applicant must be a resident of New York state
5 and licensed to practice medicine or nursing and shall be a registered
6 professional nurse as defined in section sixty-nine hundred three of
7 this chapter.

8 (2) [~~The applicant must have completed a professional residency~~
9 ~~program within the five years immediately preceding the period for which~~
10 ~~the first award would be granted, or be within two years of completion~~
11 ~~of an accredited residency program in a primary care specialty desig-~~
12 ~~minated in short supply by the board of regents.~~

13 (3) The applicant must agree to practice medicine or nursing in an
14 area in New York state designated as having a shortage of physicians or
15 nurses. The regents, after consultation with the commissioners of
16 health, corrections and community supervision, mental health and devel-
17 opmental disabilities, shall designate those regions and facilities of
18 New York state which have a shortage of physicians or nurses for the
19 purposes of this section and establish relative rankings thereof.

20 b. Selection. The commissioner, in consultation with the commissioner
21 of health, shall establish criteria for the selection of participants in
22 the program. An applicant must satisfy at least one of the criteria
23 established. A priority shall be accorded to any applicant who is
24 completing the second year of the service requirement and is reapplying
25 for a new award. The criteria shall include but not be limited to the
26 following:

27 (i) reapplication for a new award by a person who is completing the
28 second year of a service requirement;

29 (ii) receipt of specific training in a primary care specialty or
30 obstetrics, or nursing determined by the regents to be in short supply;

31 (iii) receipt of specific training or experience in serving a shortage
32 area;

33 (iv) receipt of specific training or experience matching a specific
34 medical need existing in a shortage area; and

35 (v) agreement pursuant to [~~subdivision (d)~~] paragraph d of this
36 [~~section~~] subdivision to practice in an area determined by the regents
37 to have a severe shortage of primary care physician services and nursing
38 services.

39 c. Notification. (1) The commissioner shall then forward approved
40 applications to the president and shall notify unsuccessful applicants;

41 (2) The president shall verify the approved applicants':

42 (i) eligibility; and

43 (ii) total undergraduate and medical school and nursing school student
44 expense;

45 (3) The president shall notify applicants of their award entitlement.

46 d. Service requirement. Within such time as the commissioner shall by
47 regulation provide, a recipient of an award shall have agreed to prac-
48 tice medicine or nursing in a specific area designated as having a shor-
49 tage of physicians or nurses for a period of twelve months for each
50 annual payment to be received by the recipient. Physicians and nurses in
51 training who receive an award shall not receive credit toward their
52 required service for time spent in a training program. [~~In no case shall~~
53 ~~the total number of months of service required be less than twenty-~~
54 ~~four.~~] The president shall, in consultation with the commissioner,
55 develop and secure from each award recipient, a written agreement to[+
56

(+)] practice medicine or nursing in the designated shortage area[+]

1 payments shall be for an amount equal to the total of undergraduate and
2 medical or nursing school student loan expense or ten thousand dollars
3 whichever is less. The president shall be responsible for calculating
4 the dollar amount of each award that [~~eligible~~] eligible candidates may
5 receive from this program. For the purposes of this section, student
6 loan expense shall mean the cumulative total of the annual student loans
7 covering the cost of attendance at an undergraduate institution and/or
8 medical or nursing school. Interest paid or due on student loans that an
9 applicant has taken out for use in paying for such undergraduate and/or
10 medical or nursing education shall be considered eligible for reimburse-
11 ment under this program.

12 3. Award disbursement. a. Annual award disbursements shall be the
13 responsibility of the president and shall occur prior to the beginning
14 of each of the required terms of service as specified in the service
15 contract. The board of trustees of the higher education services corpo-
16 ration shall adopt rules and regulations regarding criteria for deter-
17 mining successful completion of the service contract and any appeal
18 process that may be required to implement this paragraph upon recommen-
19 dation of the president in consultation with the commissioner.

20 b. The disbursement of the second annual award shall be dependent upon
21 successful completion of the first year requirement of the service
22 contract as defined by the president, as well as other criteria set
23 forth in this section.

24 § 4. This act shall take effect on the first of July next succeeding
25 the date on which it shall have become a law.