

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1993

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SENATE BILL 1307*

Short Title: Nurse Scholars Changes/Funds.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Ward; and Gunter.

Referred to: Appropriations.

May 25, 1994

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ENHANCE THE NURSING SCHOLARS PROGRAM AND TO
3 APPROPRIATE FUNDS.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 Section 1. G.S. 90-171.61(b) reads as rewritten:

6 "(b) The Nursing Scholars Program shall be used to provide the following:

- 7 (1) A four-year scholarship loan in the amount of five thousand dollars
8 (\$5,000) per year, per recipient, to North Carolina high school seniors
9 or other persons interested in preparing to become a registered nurse
10 through a baccalaureate degree program.
- 11 (2) A two-year scholarship loan in the amount of three thousand dollars
12 (\$3,000) per year, per recipient, to persons interested in preparing to be
13 a registered nurse through an associate degree nursing program or a
14 diploma nursing program.
- 15 (3) A two-year scholarship loan in the amount of three thousand dollars
16 (\$3,000) per year, per recipient, for two years of baccalaureate nursing
17 study for college juniors or community college graduates interested in
18 preparing to be a registered nurse.
- 19 (4) A two-year scholarship loan of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) per
20 year, per recipient, for two years of baccalaureate study in nursing for
21 registered nurses who do not hold a baccalaureate degree in nursing.
- 22 (5) A two-year scholarship loan of six thousand dollars (\$6,000) per year,
23 per recipient, for two years of study leading to a master of science in

1 nursing degree for people already holding a baccalaureate degree in
2 nursing.

3 In addition to the scholarship loans awarded pursuant to subdivisions (1) through (5)
4 of this subsection, the Commission may award pro rata scholarship loans to recipients
5 enrolled at least half-time in study leading to a master of science in nursing degree who
6 already hold a baccalaureate degree in nursing. In awarding all scholarship loans, the
7 Commission shall give priority to full-time students over part-time students. The State
8 Education Assistance Authority shall adopt specific rules to regulate scholarship loans
9 to part-time master of science in nursing students.

10 Within current funds available or with any additional funds provided by the General
11 Assembly for this purpose, the Commission may set aside slots for scholarship loans
12 prescribed by subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection to enable licensed practical
13 nurses to become registered nurses. The State Education Assistance Authority shall
14 adopt specific rules to regulate these scholarship loans."

15 Sec. 2. G.S. 90-171.62(b) reads as rewritten:

16 "(b) The State Education Assistance Authority shall forgive the loan if, within
17 seven years after graduation from a nursing education program, the recipient practices
18 nursing in North Carolina for one year for every year a scholarship loan was provided.
19 If the recipient repays the scholarship loan by cash payments, all indebtedness shall be
20 repaid within ten years. The Authority may provide for accelerated repayment and for
21 less than full-time employment options to encourage the practice of nursing in either
22 geographic or nursing specialty shortage areas. The Authority shall adopt specific rules
23 to designate these geographic areas and these nursing specialty shortage areas, upon
24 recommendations of the North Carolina Center for Nursing. The North Carolina Center
25 for Nursing shall base its recommendations on objective information provided by
26 interested groups or agencies and upon objective information collected by the Center.
27 The Authority may forgive the scholarship loan if it determines that it is impossible for
28 the recipient to practice nursing in North Carolina for a sufficient time to repay the loan
29 because of the death or permanent disability of the recipient within ten years following
30 graduation or termination of enrollment in a nursing education program."

31 Sec. 3. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of
32 Governors of The University of North Carolina the sum of twenty-four thousand dollars
33 (\$24,000) for the 1994-95 fiscal year to fund a secretary position to administer the
34 selection and origination functions for the Nursing Scholars Program and the Nurse
35 Education Scholarship Loan Program.

36 Sec. 4. This act becomes effective July 1, 1994.