

By Representative Green

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Nursing Student Loan
3 Forgiveness Program; amending ss. 240.4075 and
4 240.4076, F.S.; including family practice
5 teaching hospitals and specialty hospitals for
6 children as eligible facilities under the
7 program; exempting such hospitals from the
8 fund-matching requirements of the program;
9 providing an effective date.

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11 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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13 Section 1. Subsection (1) and paragraph (a) of
14 subsection (7) of section 240.4075, Florida Statutes, are
15 amended to read:

16 240.4075 Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness Program.--

17 (1) To encourage qualified personnel to seek
18 employment in areas of this state in which critical nursing
19 shortages exist, there is established the Nursing Student Loan
20 Forgiveness Program. The primary function of the program is
21 to increase employment and retention of registered nurses and
22 licensed practical nurses in nursing homes and hospitals in
23 the state and in state-operated medical and health care
24 facilities, birth centers, federally sponsored community
25 health centers, ~~and~~ teaching hospitals, family practice
26 teaching hospitals, and specialty hospitals for children by
27 making repayments toward loans received by students from
28 federal or state programs or commercial lending institutions
29 for the support of postsecondary study in accredited or
30 approved nursing programs.

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1 (7)(a) Funds contained in the Nursing Student Loan
2 Forgiveness Trust Fund which are to be used for loan
3 forgiveness for those nurses employed by hospitals, birth
4 centers, and nursing homes must be matched on a
5 dollar-for-dollar basis by contributions from the employing
6 institutions, except that this provision shall not apply to
7 state-operated medical and health care facilities, county
8 health departments, federally sponsored community health
9 centers, ~~or~~ teaching hospitals as defined in s. 408.07, family
10 practice teaching hospitals as defined in s. 395.805, or
11 specialty hospitals for children as used in s. 409.9119. If in
12 any given fiscal quarter there are insufficient funds in the
13 trust fund to grant all eligible applicant requests, awards
14 shall be based on the following priority of employer: county
15 health departments; federally sponsored community health
16 centers; state-operated medical and health care facilities;
17 teaching hospitals as defined in s. 408.07; family practice
18 teaching hospitals as defined in s. 395.805; specialty
19 hospitals for children as used in s. 409.9119; and other
20 hospitals, birth centers, and nursing homes where the match is
21 required.

22 Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section
23 240.4076, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

24 240.4076 Nursing scholarship program.--

25 (4) Credit for repayment of a scholarship shall be as
26 follows:

27 (b) Eligible health care facilities include
28 state-operated medical or health care facilities, county
29 health departments, federally sponsored community health
30 centers, ~~or~~ teaching hospitals as defined in s. 408.07, family
31 practice teaching hospitals as defined in s. 395.805, or

1 specialty hospitals for children as used in s. 409.9119. The
2 recipient shall be encouraged to complete the service
3 obligation at a single employment site. If continuous
4 employment at the same site is not feasible, the recipient may
5 apply to the department for a transfer to another approved
6 health care facility.

7 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

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HOUSE SUMMARY

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12 Includes family practice teaching hospitals and specialty
13 hospitals for children as eligible facilities under the
14 Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness Program, and exempts
such hospitals from the fund-matching requirements of the
program.

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