

By the Committee on Colleges & Universities and  
Representatives Green and Heyman

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to nursing student financial  
3           assistance programs; amending s. 240.4075,  
4           F.S.; including family practice teaching  
5           hospitals and specialty hospitals for children  
6           as eligible facilities under the Nursing  
7           Student Loan Forgiveness Program; exempting  
8           such hospitals from the fund-matching  
9           requirements of the program; providing for  
10          priority of awards when there are insufficient  
11          funds for all eligible applicants; amending s.  
12          240.4076, F.S.; including nursing homes, family  
13          practice teaching hospitals, and specialty  
14          hospitals for children as eligible facilities  
15          under the nursing scholarship program; revising  
16          loan repayment provisions; providing an  
17          effective date.

18  
19 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

20  
21           Section 1. Subsection (1) and paragraph (a) of  
22           subsection (7) of section 240.4075, Florida Statutes, are  
23           amended to read:

24           240.4075 Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness Program.--

25           (1) To encourage qualified personnel to seek  
26           employment in areas of this state in which critical nursing  
27           shortages exist, there is established the Nursing Student Loan  
28           Forgiveness Program. The primary function of the program is  
29           to increase employment and retention of registered nurses and  
30           licensed practical nurses in nursing homes and hospitals in  
31           the state and in state-operated medical and health care

1 facilities, birth centers, federally sponsored community  
2 health centers, ~~and~~ teaching hospitals, family practice  
3 teaching hospitals, and specialty hospitals for children by  
4 making repayments toward loans received by students from  
5 federal or state programs or commercial lending institutions  
6 for the support of postsecondary study in accredited or  
7 approved nursing programs.

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

29 Section 2. Paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of subsection  
30 (4) of section 240.4076, Florida Statutes, are amended to  
31 read:

1           240.4076 Nursing scholarship program.--  
2           (4) Credit for repayment of a scholarship shall be as  
3 follows:  
4           (b) Eligible health care facilities include  
5 state-operated medical or health care facilities, county  
6 health departments, federally sponsored community health  
7 centers, ~~or~~ teaching hospitals as defined in s. 408.07,  
8 nursing homes, family practice teaching hospitals as defined  
9 in s. 395.805, or specialty hospitals for children as used in  
10 s. 409.9119. The recipient shall be encouraged to complete the  
11 service obligation at a single employment site. If continuous  
12 employment at the same site is not feasible, the recipient may  
13 apply to the department for a transfer to another approved  
14 health care facility.  
15           (c) Any recipient who does not complete an appropriate  
16 program of studies or who does not become licensed shall repay  
17 to the Department of Education, on a schedule to be determined  
18 by the department, the entire amount of the scholarship plus  
19 ~~18 percent interest accruing from the date of the scholarship~~  
20 ~~payment.~~ Repayment schedules and applicable interest rates  
21 shall be determined by the rules of the State Board of  
22 Education under ss. 240.451 and 240.465. Moneys repaid shall  
23 be deposited into the State Student Financial Assistance Trust  
24 ~~Fund Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness Trust Fund established~~  
25 ~~in s. 240.4075~~. However, the department may provide  
26 additional time for repayment if the department finds that  
27 circumstances beyond the control of the recipient caused or  
28 contributed to the default.  
29           (d) Any recipient who does not accept employment as a  
30 nurse at an approved health care facility or who does not  
31 complete 12 months of approved employment for each year of

1 scholarship assistance received shall repay to the Department  
2 of Education ~~an amount equal to two times~~ the entire amount of  
3 the scholarship plus interest ~~accruing from the date of the~~  
4 ~~scholarship payment at the maximum allowable interest rate~~  
5 ~~permitted by law.~~ Repayment schedules and applicable interest  
6 rates shall be determined by the rules of the State Board of  
7 Education under ss. 240.451 and 240.465. Repayment shall be  
8 made within 1 year of notice that the recipient is considered  
9 to be in default. However, the department may provide  
10 additional time for repayment if the department finds that  
11 circumstances beyond the control of the recipient caused or  
12 contributed to the default.

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

14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31