

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to nursing education; amending
3 ss. 240.4075, 240.4076, F.S.; including nursing
4 homes, family practice teaching hospitals and
5 specialty children's hospitals as facilities
6 eligible under the program; exempting such
7 hospitals from the fund-matching requirements
8 of the program; transferring the program from
9 the Board of Regents to the Department of
10 Health; providing an effective date.

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

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

17 240.4075 Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness Program.--

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

1 (7)(a) Funds contained in the Nursing Student Loan
2 Forgivenness Trust Fund which are to be used for loan
3 forgivenness 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 children's hospitals as described in s. 409.9119.
12 If, in any given fiscal quarter, there are insufficient funds
13 in the trust fund to grant all eligible applicants' requests,
14 awards must be based on the following priority by employer:
15 county health departments, federally sponsored community
16 health centers, state-operated medical and health care
17 facilities, teaching hospitals as defined in s. 408.07, family
18 practice teaching hospitals as defined in s. 395.805,
19 specialty children's hospitals as described in s. 409.9119,
20 and other hospitals, birthing centers, or nursing homes where
21 the match is 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,
31 nursing homes, family practice teaching hospitals as defined

1 in s. 395.805, or specialty children's hospitals as described
2 in s. 409.9119. The recipient shall be encouraged to complete
3 the service obligation at a single employment site. If
4 continuous employment at the same site is not feasible, the
5 recipient may apply to the department for a transfer to
6 another approved health care facility.

7 Section 3. All the statutory powers, duties, and
8 functions and the records, personnel, property, and unexpended
9 balances of appropriations, allocations, or other funds of the
10 Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness Program are transferred from
11 the Department of Education to the Department of Health by a
12 type two transfer as defined in section 20.06, Florida
13 Statutes.

14 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31