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H.B. No. 3083

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to repayment of certain mental health professional
3 education loans.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Section 61.601, Education Code, is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 Sec. 61.601. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "mental
8 health professional" means:

9 (1) a licensed physician who is:

10 (A) a graduate of an accredited psychiatric
11 residency training program; or

12 (B) certified in psychiatry by:

13 (i) the American Board of Psychiatry and
14 Neurology; or

15 (ii) the American Osteopathic Board of
16 Neurology and Psychiatry;

17 (2) a psychologist, as defined by Section 501.002,
18 Occupations Code;

19 (3) a licensed professional counselor, as defined by
20 Section 503.002, Occupations Code;

21 (4) an advanced practice registered nurse, as defined
22 by Section 301.152, Occupations Code, who holds a nationally
23 recognized board certification in psychiatric or mental health
24 nursing; ~~and~~

1 (5) a licensed clinical social worker, as defined by
2 Section 505.002, Occupations Code; and

3 (6) a chemical dependency counselor, as defined by
4 Section 504.001, Occupations Code.

5 SECTION 2. Section 61.604, Education Code, is amended by
6 adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

7 (d) Notwithstanding Subsection (c), if in a state fiscal
8 year not all funds available for purposes of the program are used,
9 the board may allocate any unused funds to award repayment
10 assistance grants to mental health professionals in any of the
11 professions listed in Section 61.601.

12 SECTION 3. Section 61.607(b), Education Code, is amended to
13 read as follows:

14 (b) The total amount of repayment assistance received by a
15 mental health professional under this subchapter may not exceed:

16 (1) \$160,000, for assistance from the state received
17 by a licensed physician;

18 (2) \$80,000, for assistance from the state received
19 by:

20 (A) a psychologist;

21 (B) a licensed clinical social worker, if the
22 social worker has received a doctoral degree related to social
23 work; or

24 (C) a licensed professional counselor, if the
25 counselor has received a doctoral degree related to counseling;

26 (3) \$60,000, for assistance from the state received by
27 an advanced practice registered nurse; [~~and~~]

1 (4) \$40,000, for assistance from the state received by
2 a licensed clinical social worker or a licensed professional
3 counselor who is not described by Subdivision (2); and

4 (5) \$10,000, for assistance from the state received by
5 a licensed chemical dependency counselor, if the chemical
6 dependency counselor has received an associate degree related to
7 chemical dependency counseling or behavioral science.

8 SECTION 4. The heading to Section 61.608, Education Code,
9 is amended to read as follows:

10 Sec. 61.608. RULES; ADMINISTRATION.

11 SECTION 5. Section 61.608, Education Code, is amended by
12 adding Subsections (c) and (d) to read as follows:

13 (c) The board shall adopt rules establishing a process for
14 allocating any unused funds under the program in accordance with
15 Section 61.604(d).

16 (d) The board shall administer the program under this
17 subchapter in a manner that maximizes any matching funds available
18 through the state loan repayment program under the National Health
19 Service Corps program of the United States Department of Health and
20 Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration.

21 SECTION 6. Section 61.609, Education Code, is amended to
22 read as follows:

23 Sec. 61.609. SOLICITATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS. (a) The
24 board may solicit and accept gifts and grants from any public or
25 private source for the purposes of this subchapter.

26 (b) The board annually shall seek the maximum amount of
27 funds available through the state loan repayment program under the

1 National Health Service Corps program of the United States
2 Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and
3 Services Administration.

4 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.