

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 87th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2009

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1251

4
5 By: Representative Breedlove
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For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO CREATE A LOAN PROGRAM FOR OUT-OF-STATE
10 PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION; TO PROVIDE FOR
11 FORGIVENESS OF LOANS FOR PROFESSIONALS WHO
12 PRACTICE IN ARKANSAS FOR NO LESS THAN FIVE (5)
13 YEARS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

15 AN ACT TO CREATE A LOAN PROGRAM FOR OUT-
16 OF-STATE PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AND TO
17 PROVIDE FOR FORGIVENESS OF LOANS FOR
18 PROFESSIONALS WHO PRACTICE IN ARKANSAS
19 FOR NO LESS THAN FIVE (5) YEARS.
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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
24

25 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-81-1101 is amended to read as follows:

26 6-81-1101. Tuition assistance for certain professional schools.

27 ~~(e)~~(a) For purposes of this section:

28 (1) ~~"Grant"~~ "Loan" means a payment of tuition money made in
29 accordance with this section and intended to be repaid to assist a qualified
30 ~~grantee~~ recipient in attending participating accredited schools of dentistry,
31 optometry, veterinary medicine, podiatry, chiropractic, or osteopathy located
32 outside the State of Arkansas;

33 (2) "Participating institution" or "participating school" means
34 a professional or graduate school that:

35 (A) Is located outside the State of Arkansas but within
36 the United States;



1 (B) Offers a full-time course of instruction in dentistry,
2 optometry, veterinary medicine, podiatry, chiropractic, or osteopathy;

3 (C) Is accredited by an accrediting entity acceptable to
4 the applicable licensing board of the profession;

5 (D) After completion of ~~such~~ the course of instruction,
6 grants a degree acceptable to the applicable licensing board as the sole
7 requirement or as one (1) requirement for the board's granting of a
8 professional license; and

9 (E) Is a party to a currently effective written agreement
10 between the participating institution and the department or the Board of
11 Control for Southern Regional Education; and

12 (3) "Qualified ~~grantee~~ recipient" means a student who:

13 (A) Is a resident of the State of Arkansas;

14 (B) Has been accepted for enrollment at or is attending a
15 participating accredited school of dentistry, optometry, veterinary medicine,
16 podiatry, osteopathy, or chiropractic located outside the State of Arkansas;
17 and

18 (C) Has been certified under § 6-4-106 by the ~~department~~
19 Department of Higher Education as qualified to participate in the ~~grant~~ loan
20 program authorized by this section and consistent with § 6-4-106.

21 ~~(a)(b)~~ The ~~Department of Higher Education~~ department shall institute a
22 program of making ~~grants~~ loans for the benefit of Arkansas residents to
23 assist in paying tuition for attending certain accredited schools of
24 dentistry, optometry, veterinary medicine, podiatry, chiropractic, or
25 osteopathy located outside the State of Arkansas but within the United
26 States.

27 ~~(b)(c)~~ In addition to the Southern Regional Education Compact ~~Program~~
28 program for which the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board serves as
29 agent for the state and for which the department serves as disbursing agent
30 ~~pursuant to~~ under §§ 6-4-104 – 6-4-107, the board ~~is authorized to~~ may enter
31 into direct contracts with selected accredited schools of dentistry,
32 optometry, veterinary medicine, podiatry, chiropractic, or osteopathy ~~which~~
33 that do not participate in the program if the board determines that the needs
34 of the state are not being met by institutions participating in the program.

35 (d)(1)(A) For participating schools that charge different annual
36 tuition amounts for in-state students and out-of-state students, the amount

1 of the ~~grant will~~ loan shall be the difference between the in-state tuition
 2 and the out-of-state tuition.

3 (B) However, should the differential exceed the contract
 4 price approved for similar programs by the board of control in accordance
 5 with § 6-4-105(c), the lower amount will be paid.

6 (2) For participating schools ~~which that~~ charge the same amount
 7 of annual tuition for in-state and out-of-state students and ~~such the~~ annual
 8 tuition is extraordinary as determined by the department, the amount shall
 9 not be less than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per student.

10 (e)(1) The program shall be administered by the department.

11 (2)(A) ~~The grants~~ A loan shall be made upon ~~such~~ terms and
 12 conditions ~~as are~~ prescribed by the department.

13 (B) The terms of a loan shall include:

14 (i) A requirement for repayment; and

15 (ii) Provisions for forgiveness in accordance with §
 16 6-81-1102.

17 (3) The department shall ~~promulgate such~~ adopt rules ~~and~~
 18 ~~regulations as are necessary~~ to implement ~~the provisions of~~ this section.

19 (f)(1) The department ~~will~~ shall allocate, based upon funds
 20 appropriated, the number of ~~eligible grant~~ qualified recipients to receive
 21 funds at each participating institution for each applicable academic period.

22 (2)(A) Each participating institution will select eligible ~~grant~~
 23 loan recipients for each applicable academic period.

24 (B) ~~In the event that~~ If the number of eligible students
 25 accepted for enrollment at ~~such a~~ participating institution exceeds the
 26 number of ~~eligible grant~~ qualified recipients for whom funds have been
 27 allocated by the department from funds appropriated, ~~such the~~ participating
 28 institution shall have sole discretion in selecting the ~~eligible students to~~
 29 ~~designate as eligible grant recipients~~ qualified recipients who will receive
 30 loans under this section.

31 (3)(A) The department shall make ~~grants~~ loans according to the
 32 allocations made by the department and selections made by the participating
 33 institutions.

34 (B) The department shall have no obligation to make any
 35 ~~grants~~ loan except to the extent that funds have been appropriated and funded
 36 for the program.

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SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 81, Subchapter 11 is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-81-1102. Tuition loan forgiveness.

(a) The Department of Higher Education shall forgive a loan under § 6-81-1101 if the loan recipient:

(1) Within one (1) year after completion of the professional degree program or within one (1) year after completion of an internship program, or both establishes a practice in Arkansas based on the professional degree; and

(2) Maintains the practice in Arkansas for no less than five (5) years.

(b) The loan recipient shall reimburse the program the full amount of any loan payments made under § 6-81-1101 if the loan recipient violates any provision of subsection (a) of this section.

(c) The department shall adopt rules to implement this section.