

AN ACT

ENTITLED, An Act to expand the nurse tuition reimbursement program to include other health care professionals.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

Section 1. That § 1-16A-73.13 be amended to read as follows:

1-16A-73.13. A health care professional is eligible to receive recruitment incentive payments pursuant to §§ 1-16A-73.13 to 1-16A-73.19, inclusive, if the health care professional is licensed or certified to practice his or her profession in South Dakota and agrees to practice full time in an eligible health care facility for a minimum period of two years. However, no more than sixty health care professionals may participate in this program at any specified time. The Department of Health shall promulgate rules pursuant to chapter 1-26 to specify those health care professionals eligible to receive recruitment incentive payments.

Section 2. That § 1-16A-73.14 be amended to read as follows:

1-16A-73.14. For purposes of §§ 1-16A-73.13 to 1-16A-73.19, inclusive, an eligible health care facility is any facility in this state which:

- (1) Is licensed pursuant to chapter 34-12 or certified under Title XVIII or XIX of the Social Security Act as amended to December 31, 2001;
- (2) Agrees to provide its portion of the recruitment incentive payments payable to a health care professional who practices in the health care facility as required by §§ 1-16A-73.13 to 1-16A-73.19, inclusive; and
- (3) Is determined to be eligible by the Department of Health.

Prior to making a determination under subdivision (3) of this section, the Department of Health shall promulgate rules pursuant to chapter 1-26 to establish specific criteria to evaluate each facility's need for eligible health care professionals.

Section 3. That § 1-16A-73.15 be amended to read as follows:

1-16A-73.15. A health care professional who fulfills the requirements of §§ 1-16A-73.13 to 1-16A-73.19, inclusive, is entitled to receive a recruitment incentive payment in the amount of five thousand dollars.

Section 4. That § 1-16A-73.16 be amended to read as follows:

1-16A-73.16. Any agreement for the payment of recruitment incentives pursuant to §§ 1-16A-73.13 to 1-16A-73.19, inclusive, shall obligate the facility employing the health care professional to provide a portion of the total amount of recruitment incentives based on the following criteria: health care facilities in communities of two thousand five hundred persons or less shall provide twenty-five percent of recruitment incentive payments and health care facilities in communities of greater than two thousand five hundred persons shall provide fifty percent of recruitment incentive payments. When the facility certifies to the secretary of health that it has paid the full amount for which it is obligated, the secretary of health shall pay to the health care professional the remaining balance of the total recruitment incentive amount. The incentive shall be paid upon the health care professional's completion of the required two-year practice period. However, a facility may pay its portion of the recruitment incentive at any time during the two-year period.

Section 5. That § 1-16A-73.18 be amended to read as follows:

1-16A-73.18. No recruitment incentive agreement entered into pursuant to the provisions of §§ 1-16A-73.13 to 1-16A-73.19, inclusive, is effective until it is filed with and approved by the secretary of health. The secretary may prescribe the form of agreements and procedures for approval by rules promulgated pursuant to chapter 1-26.

Section 6. That § 1-16A-73.19 be amended to read as follows:

1-16A-73.19. No person may participate in the recruitment incentive program established by

§§ 1-16A-73.13 to 1-16A-73.19, inclusive, who is participating in, or has previously participated in, this or any other state or federal tuition reimbursement or forgiveness program.

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I certify that the attached Act originated in the

SENATE as Bill No. 138

Secretary of the Senate

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President of the Senate

Attest:

Secretary of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Attest:

Chief Clerk

Senate Bill No. 138
File No. _____
Chapter No. _____

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Received at this Executive Office this _____ day of _____ ,

20____ at _____ M.

By _____
for the Governor

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The attached Act is hereby approved this _____ day of _____ , A.D., 20____

Governor

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STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA,
ss.

Office of the Secretary of State

Filed _____ , 20____
at _____ o'clock __ M.

Secretary of State

By _____
Asst. Secretary of State