

Introduced by Senator Cedillo

February 22, 2008

An act to add Article 5.3 (commencing with Section 69616) to Chapter 2 of Part 42 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the Education Code, relating to school nurses.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1521, as introduced, Cedillo. School nurse loan assumption program.

Existing law provides for the assumption of certain student loans of students who agree to enter into the teaching profession in designated subject matter shortage areas and in schools serving large populations of pupils from low-income families, schools serving rural areas, schools with a high percentage of teachers holding emergency permits, or schools with other specified characteristics.

This bill would provide for the assumption of student loans of students who agree to be employed as a school nurse in schools meeting prescribed requirements. It would prescribe requirements relating to amounts to be forgiven under the loan program.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Article 5.3 (commencing with Section 69616) is
- 2 added to Chapter 2 of Part 42 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the
- 3 Education Code, to read:

Article 5.3. Assumption Program of Loans for School Nurse
Education

69616. (a) Commencing with the 2009-10 school year a person shall be eligible to enter into an agreement for loan assumption pursuant to this article if he or she needs to complete training or coursework in order to be employed as a school nurse, agrees to work as a school nurse in a school that, at the time that the school nurse is hired, meets any of the following criteria:

(1) Serves a large population of pupils from low-income families.

(2) Has a high percentage of teachers holding emergency permits. For the purposes of this article, a school with a “high percentage of teachers holding emergency permits” is a school in which 20 percent or more of the teachers hold emergency permits, teach pursuant to waivers of credential requirements, or are interns.

(3) Is a high-priority school.

(b) Funding necessary for the administration of this article shall be included within the annual budget of the Student Aid Commission in an amount necessary to meet the student loan obligations incurred by the commission.

69616.2. (a) (1) Any person enrolled in an eligible institution, or any person who agrees to participate in an approved nursing program, may be eligible to enter into an agreement for loan assumption, to be redeemed pursuant to this article, upon becoming employed as a school nurse. In order to be eligible to enter into an agreement for loan assumption, an applicant shall satisfy all of the conditions specified in subdivision (b).

(2) As used in this article, “eligible institution” means any institution that is determined by the Student Aid Commission to meet both of the following requirements:

(A) The institution is eligible to participate in state and federal financial aid programs.

(B) The institution maintains a program of professional preparation that has been approved by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

(b) (1) The applicant has been admitted to a program of professional preparation that has been approved by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

1 (2) The applicant is currently enrolled, or has been admitted to
2 a program in which he or she will be enrolled on at least a half-time
3 basis, as determined by the participating institution. The applicant
4 shall agree to maintain satisfactory academic progress and a
5 minimum of half-time enrollment, as defined by the participating
6 eligible institution.

7 (3) The applicant has been judged by his or her postsecondary
8 institution to have outstanding ability on the basis of criteria that
9 may include, but need not be limited to, any of the following:

10 (A) Grade point average.

11 (B) Test scores.

12 (C) Faculty evaluations.

13 (D) Interviews.

14 (E) Other recommendations.

15 (4) The applicant has received, or is approved to receive, any
16 loan program approved by the Student Aid Commission.

17 (5) The applicant has agreed to be employed full time for at
18 least four consecutive academic years after obtaining appropriate
19 nursing credentials in a public elementary or secondary school in
20 this state, at a school that, at the time that the school nurse is hired,
21 meets any of the following criteria:

22 (A) It serves a large population of pupils from low-income
23 families, as designated by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

24 (B) It has 20 percent or more teachers holding emergency
25 permits. For the purposes of this paragraph, “teachers holding
26 emergency permits” includes persons who teach pursuant to
27 waivers of credential requirements or who are interns.

28 (C) It is a low-performing school.

29 (c) No applicant who has not met educational standards for
30 school nurses shall be eligible under this section to participate in
31 the loan assumption program set forth in this article.

32 (d) The agreements entered into each year pursuant to
33 subdivision (b) shall be with applicants who meet the criteria
34 specified in this article.

35 (e) A person participating in the program pursuant to this section
36 shall not enter into more than one agreement.

37 69616.4. (a) The terms of a loan assumption granted under
38 this article shall be as follows, subject to the specific terms of each
39 agreement:

1 (1) After a program participant has completed one school year
2 of employment as a school nurse, the commission shall assume
3 up to two thousand dollars (\$2,000) of the participant’s outstanding
4 liability under one or more of the designated loan programs.

5 (2) After a program participant has completed two consecutive
6 school years of employment as a school nurse, the commission
7 shall assume up to an additional three thousand dollars (\$3,000)
8 of the participant’s outstanding liability under one or more of the
9 designated loan programs, for a total loan assumption of up to five
10 thousand dollars (\$5,000).

11 (3) After a program participant has completed three consecutive
12 school years of employment as a school nurse, the commission
13 shall assume up to a maximum of an additional three thousand
14 dollars (\$3,000) of the participant’s outstanding liability under one
15 or more of the designated loan programs, for a total loan
16 assumption of up to eight thousand dollars (\$8,000).

17 (4) After a program participant has completed four consecutive
18 school years of employment as a school nurse, the commission
19 shall assume up to a maximum of an additional three thousand
20 dollars (\$3,000) of the participant’s outstanding liability under one
21 or more of the designated loan programs, for a total loan
22 assumption of up to eleven thousand dollars (\$11,000).

23 (b) For purposes of this section, “school year” means at least
24 175 school days or its equivalent.

25 69616.6. (a) Except as provided in subdivision (b), if a program
26 participant fails to complete a minimum instruction as required by
27 this article, under the terms of the agreement under this article, the
28 participant shall assume full liability for all student loan obligations
29 remaining after the commission’s assumption of loan liability for
30 the last year of qualifying service.

31 (b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), if a program participant
32 becomes unable to complete school nurse education due to serious
33 illness, pregnancy, or other natural causes, the participant shall
34 receive a deferral of the resumption of full liability for the loan
35 for a period not to exceed one calendar year.