## HOUSE BILL 121

## 52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015

INTRODUCED BY

Terry H. McMillan

AN ACT

RELATING TO NURSING EDUCATION; ALLOWING ANY REGISTERED NURSE WHO IS OR WILL BE A NURSE EDUCATOR TO USE THE NURSE EDUCATORS FUND TO OBTAIN A HIGHER DEGREE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. Section 21-1-27.7 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2005, Chapter 136, Section 1) is amended to read:

"21-1-27.7. FUND CREATED.--

A. There is created in the [commission on higher education] state treasury the "nurse educators fund". The state treasurer shall deposit in the fund all amounts appropriated or credited to the fund. The fund shall be administered by the [commission on] higher education department, which shall charge not more than a five percent administrative fee. Earnings from investment of the fund shall accrue to the credit of the fund.

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Any balance in the fund at the end of any fiscal year shall remain in the fund for appropriation by the legislature [as provided in this section].

The purpose of the fund is to [enhance the ability of college- and university-employed nursing educators to obtain] enable the attainment of bachelor of science, master of science and doctor of philosophy degrees in nursing programs by nursing educators employed by a public post-secondary educational institution and registered nurses seeking employment as nursing educators in a public post-secondary educational institution.

C. The [commission on] higher education department shall develop rules for continuing employment or pay-back provisions for <u>current and future</u> nursing educators who use the fund."

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