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AN ACT
RELATING TO HEALTH; AMENDING SECTIONS OF THE HEALTH
PROFESSIONAL LOAN REPAYMENT ACT AND THE NURSING PRACTICE ACT
TO PROVIDE NURSES IN ADVANCED PRACTICE WITH LOAN REPAYMENT
ASSISTANCE THROUGH NURSING LICENSE RENEWAL SURCHARGE FEES;
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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

SECTION 1. Section 21-22D-3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1995,
Chapter 144, Section 18) is amended to read:

"21-22D-3. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Health
Professional Loan Repayment Act:

A. "department" means the higher education
department;

B. "health professional" means a primary care
physician, optometrist, podiatrist, physician's assistant,
dentist, nurse, member of an allied health profession as
defined in the Allied Health Student Loan for Service Act or
a licensed or certified health professional as determined by
the department;

C. "loan" means a grant of money to defray the
costs incidental to a health education, under a contract
between the federal government or a commercial lender and a
health professional, requiring either repayment of principal
and interest or repayment in services; and

1 D. "nurse in advanced practice" means a registered
2 nurse, including a:

3 (1) certified nurse practitioner, certified
4 registered nurse anesthetist or clinical nurse specialist,
5 authorized pursuant to the Nursing Practice Act to function
6 beyond the scope of practice of professional registered
7 nursing; or

8 (2) certified nurse-midwife licensed by the
9 department of health."

10 SECTION 2. A new section of the Health Professional
11 Loan Repayment Act is enacted to read:

12 "NURSES IN ADVANCED PRACTICE--NURSING EXCELLENCE
13 PROGRAM--LICENSE RENEWAL SURCHARGE--ELIGIBILITY FOR LOAN
14 REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE FUNDED BY OTHER SOURCES.--

15 A. The department shall apply funds appropriated
16 to the department from the nursing excellence program license
17 renewal surcharge established pursuant to Subsection B of
18 Section 61-3-10.5 NMSA 1978 exclusively for health
19 professional loan repayment assistance for nurses in advanced
20 practice who practice in areas that the department has
21 designated as underserved.

22 B. Eligibility for loan repayment assistance
23 pursuant to the provisions of Subsection A of this section
24 shall not render nurses in advanced practice ineligible for
25 loan repayment assistance pursuant to the Health Professional

1 Loan Repayment Act that derives from any other source of
2 funding."

3 SECTION 3. Section 61-3-10.5 NMSA 1978 (being Laws
4 2003, Chapter 276, Section 2) is amended to read:

5 "61-3-10.5. NURSING EXCELLENCE PROGRAM--LICENSE RENEWAL
6 SURCHARGE.--

7 A. The board may establish a "nursing excellence
8 program" that provides strategies to:

9 (1) enhance recruitment and retention of
10 professional nurses, increase career and educational
11 opportunities and improve interaction with health facilities
12 administrations, the medical profession and institutions of
13 higher education; and

14 (2) fund loan repayment assistance pursuant
15 to Section 2 of this 2017 act.

16 B. The board may impose a license renewal
17 surcharge for each nursing license renewed in an amount not
18 to exceed twenty dollars (\$20.00) to implement and maintain
19 the nursing excellence program. The surcharge shall be used
20 as follows:

21 (1) fifty percent of each license renewal
22 surcharge shall be deposited in the nursing excellence fund
23 to be used by the board to carry out the provisions of
24 Paragraph (1) of Subsection A of this section; and

25 (2) fifty percent of each license renewal

