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HOUSE BILL 774

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005

INTRODUCED BY

Luci ano "Lucky" Varel a

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION; CHANGING THE CALCULATION OF INTEREST CHARGES FOR CERTAIN HIGHER EDUCATION LOAN PAYBACK PROGRAMS.

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

Section 1. Section 21-22-6 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1975, Chapter 244, Section 6, as amended) is amended to read:

"21-22-6. MEDICAL STUDENT LOANS--CONTRACT TERMS--REPAYMENT.--

A. Each applicant who is approved for a loan by the commission may be granted a loan, in such amounts and for such periods as determined by the commission, with which to defray expenses incurred in obtaining a medical education at any reputable and accredited medical school in the United States if the applicant files with the commission a declaration of his intent to practice his profession as a licensed physician or

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2	being adequately served by medical practitioners.
3	B. The loans shall not exceed the necessary
4	expenses incurred while attending a medical school or college
5	and shall bear interest at the rate of:
6	(1) eighteen percent per year if the student
7	completes his medical education and no portion of the principal
8	and interest is forgiven pursuant to Subsection $[{\tt E}]$ $\underline{{\tt F}}$ of this
9	section; and
10	(2) seven percent per year in all other cases.
11	C. Loans made pursuant to the Medical Student Loan
12	for Service Act shall not accrue interest until:
13	(1) the commission determines the loan
14	recipient has terminated the recipient's medical education
15	<u>prior to completion;</u>
16	(2) the commission determines the loan
17	recipient has failed to fulfill the recipient's obligation to
18	serve in a health professional shortage area; or
19	(3) the commission cancels a contract between
20	a student and the commission pursuant to Section 21-22-9 NMSA
21	<u>1978.</u>
22	[C.] D. The loan shall be evidenced by a contract
23	between the student and the commission acting on behalf of the
24	state. The contract shall provide for the payment by the state
25	of a stated sum covering the costs of a medical education and

physician assistant in areas of New Mexico designated as not

shall be conditioned upon the repayment of the loan to the state [together with interest] over a period established by the commission in consultation with the student after completion of medical school and any period of internship or residency required to complete the student's education. [The contract shall further provide that immediately upon completion or termination of the student's medical education, all interest then accrued shall be capitalized.

D.] E. Loans made to students who fail to complete their medical education shall become due [together with interest] immediately upon termination of their medical education. The commission, in consultation with the student, shall establish terms of repayment, alternate service or cancellation terms.

[E.] F. The contract shall provide that the commission shall forgive a portion of the loan [principal and interest] for each year that a loan recipient practices his profession as a licensed physician or physician assistant in areas approved by the health profession advisory committee as not being adequately served by medical practitioners. [Loan principal and interest] The loan shall be forgiven as follows:

(1) loan terms of one year shall require one year of practice in a designated health professional shortage area. Upon completion of service, one hundred percent of the [principal plus accrued interest] loan shall be forgiven;

- year of practice in a designated health professional shortage area for each year of the loan. Upon completion of the first year of service, fifty percent of the [principal plus accrued interest] loan shall be forgiven. Upon completion of the second year of service, the remainder of the [principal plus accrued interest] loan shall be forgiven; and
- (3) for loan terms of three years or more, forty percent of the [principal plus accrued interest] loan shall be forgiven upon completion of the first year of service in a designated health professional shortage area, thirty percent of the [principal plus accrued interest] loan shall be forgiven upon completion of the second year of service and the remainder of the [principal plus accrued interest] loan shall be forgiven upon completion of the third year of service.
- [F.] G. Recipients shall serve a complete year in order to receive credit for that year. The minimum credit for a year shall be established by the commission.
- [G.] H. If a loan recipient completes his professional education and does not serve in a health professional shortage area, the commission shall assess a penalty of up to three times the principal due, plus eighteen percent interest, unless the commission finds acceptable extenuating circumstances for why the student cannot serve. If the commission does not find acceptable extenuating

circumstances for the student's failure to carry out his declared intent to serve in a health professional shortage area in the state, the commission shall require immediate repayment of the [unpaid principal amount of the loan plus accrued interest owed the state] loan plus the amount of any interest and penalty assessed pursuant to this subsection.

[H.] I. The commission shall adopt regulations to implement the provisions of this section. The regulations may provide for the repayment of medical student loans in annual or other periodic installments."

Section 2. Section 21-22A-6 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1978, Chapter 109, Section 6, as amended) is amended to read:

"21-22A-6. OSTEOPATHIC MEDICAL STUDENT LOANS--CONTRACT
TERMS--REPAYMENT.--

A. Each applicant who is approved for a loan by the commission may be granted a loan, in such amounts and for such periods as determined by the commission, with which to defray expenses incurred in obtaining an osteopathic medical education at any reputable and accredited osteopathic medical school in the United States if the applicant files with the commission a declaration of his intent to practice his profession as a licensed osteopathic physician or osteopathic physician's assistant in areas of New Mexico designated as not being adequately served by osteopathic medical practitioners.

B. The loan shall not exceed the necessary expenses . 154533. 2

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incurred while attending an osteopathic medical school or college or osteopathic physician's assistant program and shall bear interest at the rate of:

- eighteen percent per year if the student (1) completes his osteopathic medical education and no portion of the principal and interest is forgiven pursuant to Subsection [E] F of this section; and
- seven percent per year in all other cases. **(2)** C. Loans made pursuant to the Osteopathic Medical Student Loan for Service Act shall not accrue interest until:
- (1) the commission determines the loan recipient has terminated the recipient's osteopathic medical education prior to completion;
- (2) the commission determines the loan recipient has failed to fulfill the recipient's obligation to serve in an area of New Mexico designated as not being adequately served by osteopathic medical practitioners; or
- (3) the commission cancels a contract between a student and the commission pursuant to Section 21-22A-9 NMSA 1978.
- [C.] D. The loan shall be evidenced by a contract between the student and the commission acting on behalf of the state. The contract shall provide for the payment by the state of a stated sum covering the costs of an osteopathic medical education and shall be conditioned upon the repayment of the

loan to the state [together with interest] over a period established by the commission in consultation with the student after the completion of osteopathic medical school or an osteopathic physician's assistant program and any period of internship or residency required to complete the student's education. [The contract shall further provide that immediately upon completion or termination of the student's osteopathic medical education, all interest then accrued shall be capitalized.

D.] E. Loans made to students who fail to complete their osteopathic medical education shall become due [together with interest] immediately upon termination of their osteopathic medical education. The commission, in consultation with the student, shall establish terms of repayment, alternate service or cancellation terms.

[E.] F. The contract shall provide that the commission shall forgive a portion of the loan [principal and interest] for each year that a loan recipient practices his profession as a licensed osteopathic physician or osteopathic physician's assistant in areas approved by the health profession advisory committee as not being adequately served by osteopathic medical practitioners. [Loan principal and interest] The loan shall be forgiven as follows:

(1) loan terms of one year shall require one year of practice in a designated health professional shortage . 154533. 2

area. Upon completion of service, one hundred percent of the [principal plus accrued interest] loan shall be forgiven;

- (2) loan terms of two years shall require one year of practice in a designated health professional shortage area for each year of the loan. Upon completion of the first year of service, fifty percent of the [principal plus accrued interest] loan shall be forgiven. Upon completion of the second year of service, the remainder of the [principal plus accrued interest] loan shall be forgiven; and
- (3) for loan terms of three years or more, forty percent of the [principal plus accrued interest] loan shall be forgiven upon completion of the first year of service in a designated health professional shortage area, thirty percent of the [principal plus accrued interest] loan shall be forgiven upon completion of the second year of service and the remainder of the [principal plus accrued interest] loan shall be forgiven upon completion of the third year of service.
- [F.] <u>G.</u> Recipients shall serve a complete year in order to receive credit for that year. The minimum credit for a year shall be established by the commission.
- [G.-] H. If a loan recipient completes his professional education and does not serve in a health professional shortage area, the commission shall assess a penalty of up to three times the principal due, plus eighteen percent interest, unless the commission finds acceptable

extenuating circumstances for why the student cannot serve. If the commission does not find acceptable extenuating circumstances for the student's failure to carry out his declared intent to serve in a health professional shortage area in the state, the commission shall require immediate repayment of the [unpaid principal amount of the loan plus accrued interest owed the state] loan plus the amount of any interest and penalty assessed pursuant to this section.

[H-] $\underline{I.}$ The commission shall adopt regulations to implement the provisions of this section. The regulations may provide for the repayment of osteopathic medical student loans in annual or other periodic installments."

Section 3. Section 21-22B-6 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1987, Chapter 299, Section 6, as amended) is amended to read:

"21-22B-6. NURSING STUDENT LOANS--CONTRACT TERMS--REPAYMENT.--

A. Each applicant who is approved for a loan by the commission may be granted a loan, in such amounts for such periods as determined by the commission, with which to defray expenses incurred in obtaining a nursing education; provided that the applicant files with the commission a declaration of intent to practice as a licensed nurse in areas of New Mexico designated as underserved.

B. The loans shall not exceed the necessary expenses incurred while attending a program of nursing and .154533.2

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shall bear interest at the rate of:

- (1) eighteen percent per year if the student completes his nursing education and no portion of the principal and interest is forgiven pursuant to Subsection [E] F of this section; and
 - (2) seven percent per year in all other cases.
- <u>C. Loans made pursuant to the Nursing Student Loan</u> for Service Act shall not accrue interest until:
- (1) the commission determines the loan recipient has terminated the recipient's nursing education prior to completion;
- (2) the commission determines the loan recipient has failed to fulfill the recipient's obligation to practice nursing in areas approved by the health profession advisory committee; or
- (3) the commission cancels a contract between a student and the commission pursuant to Section 21-22B-9 NMSA 1978.
- [C.] D. The loan shall be evidenced by a contract between the student and the commission acting on behalf of the state. The contract shall provide for the payment by the state of a stated sum covering the costs of a nursing education and shall be conditioned upon the repayment of the loan to the state [together with interest] over a period negotiated between the student and the commission after completion of a nursing .154533.2

program. [The contract shall further provide that immediately upon completion or termination of the student's nursing education, all interest then accrued shall be capitalized.

their nursing education shall become due [together with interest] immediately upon termination of nursing education.

The commission, in consultation with the student, shall establish terms of repayment, alternate service or cancellation terms with the commission.

[E.] F. The contract shall provide that the commission may forgive a portion of the loan [principal and interest] for each year that a loan recipient practices nursing in areas approved by the health profession advisory committee.

[Loan principal and interest] The loan shall be forgiven as follows:

- (1) loan terms of one year shall require one year of practice in a designated health professional shortage area. Upon completion of service, one hundred percent of the [principal plus accrued interest] loan shall be forgiven;
- (2) loan terms of two years shall require one year of practice in a designated health professional shortage area for each year of the loan. Upon completion of the first year of service, fifty percent of the [principal plus accrued interest] loan shall be forgiven. Upon completion of the second year of service, the remainder of the [principal plus

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accrued interest] loan shall be forgiven; and

for loan terms of three years or more, forty percent of the [principal plus accrued interest] loan shall be forgiven upon completion of the first year of service in a designated health professional shortage area, thirty percent of the [principal plus accrued interest] loan shall be forgiven upon completion of the second year of service and the remainder of the [principal plus accrued interest] loan shall be forgiven upon completion of the third year of service.

[F.] G. Recipients shall serve a complete year in order to receive credit for that year. The minimum credit for a year shall be established by the commission.

[G.] H. The commission shall adopt regulations to implement the provisions of this section. The regulations may provide for the repayment of nursing student loans in annual or other periodic installments."

Section 21-22C-6 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1994, Section 4. Chapter 57, Section 8, as amended) is amended to read:

"21-22C-6. ALLIED HEALTH STUDENT LOANS--CONTRACT TERMS--REPAYMENT.--

Prior to receiving a loan, each applicant approved for a loan shall file with the commission a declaration of intent to practice as a licensed allied health professional in areas of New Mexico designated as underserved.

В. The loans shall not exceed the necessary . 154533. 2

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- (1) eighteen percent per year if the student completes his allied health profession education and no portion of the principal and interest is forgiven pursuant to Subsection [E] F of this section; and
 - (2) seven percent per year in all other cases.
- C. Loans made pursuant to the Allied Health Student
 Loan for Service Act shall not accrue interest until:
- (1) the commission determines the loan recipient has terminated the recipient's allied health profession education prior to completion;
- (2) the commission determines the loan recipient has failed to fulfill the recipient's obligation to practice as a licensed allied health professional in areas of New Mexico designated as underserved; or
- (3) the commission cancels a contract between a student and the commission pursuant to Section 21-22C-9 NMSA 1978.
- [C.] D. The loan shall be evidenced by a contract between the student and the commission acting on behalf of the state. The contract shall provide for the payment by the state of a stated sum covering the costs of an allied health profession education and shall be conditioned on the repayment of the loan to the state [together with interest] over a period . 154533. 2

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negotiated between the student and the commission after completion of an allied health profession education. [The contract shall further provide that immediately upon completion or termination of the student's allied health profession education, all interest then accrued shall be capitalized.

D.] E. Loans made to students who fail to complete their allied health profession education shall become due [together with interest] immediately upon termination of that education. The commission, in consultation with the student, shall establish repayment terms, alternate service or cancellation terms.

[E.] F. The contract shall provide that the commission shall forgive a portion of the loan [principal and interest] for each year that a loan recipient practices an allied health profession in areas approved by the health profession advisory committee. [Loan principal and interest] The loan shall be forgiven as follows:

- (1) loan terms of one year shall require one year of practice in a designated health professional shortage area. Upon completion of service, one hundred percent of the [principal plus accrued interest] loan shall be forgiven;
- (2) loan terms of two years shall require one year of practice in a designated health professional shortage area for each year of the loan. Upon completion of the first year of service, fifty percent of the [principal plus accrued]

interest] loan shall be forgiven. Upon completion of the
second year of service, the remainder of the [principal plus
accrued interest] loan shall be forgiven; and

(3) for loan terms of three years or more, forty percent of the [principal plus accrued interest] loan shall be forgiven upon completion of the first year of service, thirty percent of the [principal plus accrued interest] loan shall be forgiven upon completion of the second year of service and the remainder of the [principal plus accrued interest] loan shall be forgiven upon completion of the third year of service.

[F.] <u>G.</u> Recipients shall serve a complete year in order to receive credit for that year. The minimum credit for a year shall be established by the commission.

[6-] H. If a loan recipient completes his professional education and does not serve the required number of years in a health professional shortage area, the commission shall assess a penalty of up to three times the principal due, plus eighteen percent interest, unless the commission finds acceptable extenuating circumstances for why the student cannot serve. If the commission does not find acceptable extenuating circumstances for the student's failure to carry out his declared intent to serve in a health professional shortage area in the state, the commission shall require immediate repayment of the [unpaid principal amount of the loan plus accrued interest owed the state] loan plus the amount of any interest

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and penalty assessed pursuant to this subsection.

[H.] I. The commission shall adopt regulations to implement the provisions of this section. The regulations may provide for the repayment of allied health student loans in annual or other periodic installments."

Section 5. Section 21-22E-6 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2001, Chapter 288, Section 6) is amended to read:

"21-22E-6. TEACHER LOANS--CONTRACT TERMS--REPAYMENT.--

A. Each applicant who is approved for a loan by the commission may be granted a loan in such amounts and for such periods as the commission determines. The loan shall not exceed the necessary expenses incurred while attending a teacher preparation program.

- B. A loan shall bear interest at the rate of:
- (1) eighteen percent per year if the loan recipient completes his teacher preparation program and no portion of the principal and interest is forgiven pursuant to Subsection [E] F of this section; or
 - (2) seven percent per year in all other cases.
- <u>C. Loans made pursuant to the Teacher Loan for</u>

 Service Act shall not accrue interest until:
- (1) the commission determines the loan recipient has terminated the recipient's teacher preparation program prior to completion;
- (2) the commission determines the loan
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recipient has failed to fulfill the recipient's obligation to practice as a licensed teacher in New Mexico; or

(3) the commission cancels a contract between a student and the commission pursuant to Section 21-22E-9 NMSA 1978.

[C.] D. The loan shall be evidenced by a contract between the loan recipient and the commission acting on behalf of the state. The contract shall provide for the payment by the state of a stated sum covering the costs of a teacher preparation program and shall be conditioned on the repayment of the loan to the state [together with interest] over a period established by the commission after the completion of the teacher preparation program and any postgraduate study or internship required to complete the loan recipient's education. [The contract shall further provide that immediately upon completion or termination of the loan recipient's education, all interest then accrued shall be capitalized.

D.] E. A loan made to a recipient who fails to complete his teacher preparation program shall become due together with interest] immediately upon termination of his teacher preparation program. The commission, in consultation with the loan recipient, shall establish terms of repayment, alternate service or cancellation terms.

 $\left[\frac{E_{r}}{E_{r}}\right]$ $\left[\frac{F_{r}}{E_{r}}\right]$ The contract shall provide that the commission shall forgive a portion of the loan $\left[\frac{Principal}{Principal}\right]$ and . 154533. 2

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interest] for each year that the loan recipient practices his
profession as a licensed teacher in New Mexico. [Loan
principal and interest] The loan shall be forgiven as follows:

- (1) loan terms of one year shall require one year of practice. Upon completion of service, one hundred percent of the [principal plus accrued interest] loan shall be forgiven;
- (2) loan terms of two years shall require one year of practice for each year of the loan. Upon completion of the first year of service, fifty percent of the [principal plus accrued interest] loan shall be forgiven. Upon completion of the second year of service, the remainder of the [principal plus accrued interest] loan shall be forgiven; and
- (3) for loan terms of three years or more, forty percent of the [principal plus accrued interest] loan shall be forgiven upon completion of the first year of service, thirty percent of the [principal plus accrued interest] loan shall be forgiven upon completion of the second year of service and the remainder of the [principal plus accrued interest] loan shall be forgiven upon completion of the third year of service.
- [F.] <u>G.</u> A loan recipient shall serve a complete contract year in order to receive credit for that year. The minimum credit for a year shall be established by the commission.
- [G.] <u>H.</u> If a loan recipient completes his teacher . 154533. 2

preparation program and does not serve in a New Mexico public school, the commission shall assess a penalty of up to three times the principal due, plus eighteen percent interest, unless the commission finds acceptable extenuating circumstances that prevent the loan recipient from serving. If the commission does not find acceptable extenuating circumstances for the loan recipient's failure to carry out his declared intent to serve, the commission shall require immediate repayment of the [unpaid principal amount of the loan plus accrued interest owed the state] loan plus the amount of any interest and penalty assessed pursuant to this section.

[H.] I. The commission shall adopt and promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this section. The rules may provide for the repayment of loans in annual or other periodic installments."

Section 6. Section 21-29-3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1997, Chapter 126, Section 3) is amended to read:

"21-29-3. STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM-TERMS OF STUDENT LOANS-PAYBACK REQUIREMENTS.--

A. Financial assistance by the state for the student exchange program of the western interstate commission [on] for higher education shall be through a loan program established pursuant to this section.

B. A student may receive a loan of tuition assistance on the following terms:

1	(1) the roan sharr not exceed an amount
2	equivalent to the negotiated support fee for the graduate or
3	professional program; and
4	(2) the loan shall bear interest at the rate
5	of:
6	(a) eighteen percent per year if the
7	student completes his education and no portion of the principal
8	and interest is forgiven pursuant to Subsection $[E]$ \underline{F} of this
9	section; and
10	(b) seven percent per year in all other
11	cases.
12	C. Loans made pursuant to the WICHE Loan for
13	Service Act shall not accrue interest until:
14	(1) the commission determines the loan
15	recipient has terminated the recipient's professional education
16	program prior to completion;
17	(2) the commission determines the loan
18	recipient has failed to fulfill the recipient's obligation to
19	practice the recipient's profession in New Mexico; or
20	(3) the commission cancels a contract between
21	a student and the commission pursuant to Section 21-29-6 NMSA
22	<u>1978.</u>
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24	between the student and the commission acting on behalf of the
25	state. The contract shall provide for the payment by the state
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of a stated sum covering the cost of tuition assistance and shall be conditioned on the repayment of the loan to the state [together with interest] over a period established by the commission. [The contract shall provide further that immediately upon completion or termination of the student's education, all interest then accrued shall be capitalized.

D.] E. Loans made to a student who fails to complete his education shall become due [together with interest] immediately upon termination of his education. The commission shall establish terms of repayment, alternate service or cancellation terms.

[E.] F. The contract shall provide that the commission shall forgive a portion of the loan [principal and interest] for each year that a loan recipient practices his profession in New Mexico. [Loan principal and interest] The loan shall be forgiven as follows:

- (1) loan terms of one year shall require one year of practice for each year of the loan. Upon completion of service, one hundred percent of the [principal plus accrued interest] loan shall be forgiven;
- (2) loan terms of two years shall require one year of practice for each year of the loan. Upon completion of the first year of service, fifty percent of the [principal plus accrued interest] loan shall be forgiven; upon completion of the second year of service, the remainder of the [principal]

plus accrued interest] loan shall be forgiven;

- (3) for loan terms of three years or more, forty percent of the [principal plus accrued interest] loan shall be forgiven upon completion of the first year of service, thirty percent of the [principal plus accrued interest] loan shall be forgiven upon completion of the second year of service and the remainder of the [principal plus accrued interest] loan shall be forgiven upon completion of the third year of service; and
- (4) the commission may establish other forgiveness terms for professionals providing service in serious shortage areas.
- [F.] <u>G.</u> Loan recipients shall serve a complete year in order to receive credit for that year. The minimum credit for a year shall be established by the commission.
- [6.] H. If a student completes his professional education and does not return to New Mexico to practice his profession, the commission shall assess a penalty of up to three times the principal due, plus eighteen percent interest, unless the commission finds acceptable extenuating circumstances for why the student cannot serve. If the commission does not find acceptable extenuating circumstances for the student's failure to carry out his declared intent to practice his profession in New Mexico, the commission shall require immediate repayment of the [unpaid principal amount of

the loan plus accrued interest owed the state] <u>loan</u> plus the amount of any <u>interest and</u> penalty assessed pursuant to this subsection.

[H.] \underline{I} . The commission may provide by regulation for the repayment of student exchange program loans in annual or other periodic installments."

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