

1 SB134  
2 181352-1  
3 By Senators Dial, McClendon and Reed  
4 RFD: Health and Human Services  
5 First Read: 09-FEB-17

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8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, the Board of Nursing  
9 administers a loan-repayment program for  
10 advanced-practice nurses who contract with the  
11 board to work in medically underserved areas of the  
12 state after receiving their graduate degree as a  
13 certified registered nurse practitioner, a  
14 certified nurse midwife, or a certified registered  
15 nurse anesthetist.

16 This bill would authorize the board to award  
17 advanced-practice nurse loans to those nurses who  
18 have recently completed a graduate degree program  
19 and immediately begin to practice in a medically  
20 underserved area of the state.

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22 A BILL  
23 TO BE ENTITLED  
24 AN ACT

25  
26 To amend Section 34-21-96, Code of Alabama 1975, as  
27 added to the code by Act 2016-353, 2016 Regular Session,

1 relating to the loan repayment program for advanced-practice  
2 nursing administered by the Board of Nursing; to authorize the  
3 board to provide loans to currently certified nurse  
4 practitioners, certified nurse midwives, and certified  
5 registered nurse anesthetists who contract with the board to  
6 practice in medically underserved areas of the state.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

8 Section 1. Section 34-21-96, as added to the Code of  
9 Alabama 1975, by Act 2016-353, 2016 Regular Session, is  
10 amended to read as follows:

11 "§34-21-96.

12 "(a) (1) The board shall establish and award,  
13 according to the judgment of the board, loans to provide for  
14 the training of qualified applicants for admission or students  
15 in accredited nursing education programs approved by the board  
16 who are pursuing, or have completed within the five years  
17 immediately preceding the current loan term, a graduate degree  
18 to become a certified registered nurse practitioner (CRNP), a  
19 certified nurse midwife (CNM), or a certified registered nurse  
20 anesthetist (CRNA), but only for people who have signed  
21 contracts as provided in subsection (b). The board may permit  
22 eligible people to apply for a loan under the Alabama  
23 Loan-Repayment Program for Advanced-Practice Nursing in any  
24 scholastic year and for any previously completed scholastic  
25 year.

26 "(2) The board may award to an eligible person, for  
27 as many as three years for a person pursuing ~~a~~ or holding an

1 eligible master's degree and as many as four years for a  
2 person pursuing ~~a~~ or holding an eligible doctorate, an annual  
3 loan not to exceed ~~\$15,000~~ fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000),  
4 except that the board in each succeeding year may raise the  
5 maximum amount allowed for an annual loan by the average  
6 percentage increase for that year, compared to the previous  
7 year, in in-state tuition for graduate programs in  
8 advanced-practice nursing charged by public colleges or  
9 universities in Alabama.

10 "(3) The board shall make a careful and thorough  
11 investigation of the ability, character, and qualifications of  
12 each applicant for loans under the program, and shall in its  
13 judgment award a loan or loans under the requirements of the  
14 program.

15 "(4) A person who has signed such a contract with  
16 the board may postpone choosing an area of critical need in  
17 which to work to a time set by the board.

18 "(b) A loan or loans under this program may be  
19 awarded only to people who have signed contracts with the  
20 board to repay amounts received under the program by working  
21 following graduation, or immediately in the case of a then  
22 currently approved CRNP, CNM, or CRNA, in full-time practice  
23 as a CRNA, CRNP, or CNM in an area of critical need for 18  
24 months for each year he or she received a loan under the  
25 program.

26 "(c) A participant, subject to approval by the  
27 board, may change the area of critical need where he or she

1 will work to repay loans under this program, but in no case  
2 shall the applicant work in full-time practice for less than  
3 three years in the new area of critical need."

4 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the  
5 first day of the third month following its passage and  
6 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.