

HOUSE BILL No. 1299

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 21-13-12.

Synopsis: Social worker loan forgiveness program. Establishes a social worker student loan forgiveness program (program) to be used to provide student loan forgiveness payments to qualified social workers who are residents of Indiana and employed by the department of correction or department of child services to practice social work. Provides that the commission for higher education shall, in coordination with the Indiana professional licensing agency and the behavioral health and human services licensing board, administer the program. Establishes the social worker student loan forgiveness program fund.

Effective: July 1, 2023.

McGuire

January 11, 2023, read first time and referred to Committee on Education.



First Regular Session of the 123rd General Assembly (2023)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2022 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

HOUSE BILL No. 1299

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning higher education.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 21-13-12 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
2 AS A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
3 JULY 1, 2023]:
4 **Chapter 12. Social Worker Student Loan Forgiveness Program**
5 **Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "fund" refers to the social**
6 **worker student loan forgiveness program fund established by**
7 **section 4 of this chapter.**
8 **Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "program" refers to the social**
9 **worker student loan forgiveness program established by section 3**
10 **of this chapter.**
11 **Sec. 3. (a) The social worker student loan forgiveness program**
12 **is established.**
13 **(b) The commission shall, in coordination with the Indiana**
14 **professional licensing agency and the behavioral health and human**
15 **services licensing board established by IC 25-23.6-2-1, administer**
16 **the program.**
17 **Sec. 4. (a) The social worker student loan forgiveness program**



1 fund is established for the purpose of encouraging and promoting
 2 qualified social workers to practice social work with the
 3 department of correction or the department of child services.

4 (b) The fund consists of the following:

5 (1) Appropriations by the general assembly.

6 (2) Gifts to the fund.

7 (c) The commission shall administer the fund.

8 (d) The expenses of administering the fund shall be paid from
 9 money in the fund.

10 (e) The treasurer of state shall invest the money in the fund not
 11 currently needed to meet the obligations of the fund in the same
 12 manner as other public money may be invested. Interest that
 13 accrues from these investments shall be deposited in the fund.

14 (f) Money in the fund at the end of a state fiscal year does not
 15 revert to the state general fund.

16 Sec. 5. (a) The money in the fund must be used to provide
 17 annual student loan forgiveness payments to social workers who
 18 meet the requirements under section 6 of this chapter.

19 (b) The commission may award each year, for not more than
 20 four (4) years, a student loan forgiveness payment to a social
 21 worker who meets the requirements under section 6 of this
 22 chapter.

23 (c) Subject to section 7 of this chapter, a student loan
 24 forgiveness payment awarded under this chapter in a particular
 25 year is equal to the lesser of the following:

26 (1) The balance of the social worker's total amount of
 27 graduate and undergraduate student loans.

28 (2) Fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000).

29 Sec. 6. To qualify for a student loan forgiveness payment from
 30 the fund, an individual must:

31 (1) be a resident of Indiana;

32 (2) be licensed under IC 25-23.6-5;

33 (3) be employed by the department of correction or
 34 department of child services to practice social work;

35 (4) have an outstanding student loan balance for:

36 (A) graduate;

37 (B) undergraduate; or

38 (C) graduate and undergraduate;

39 expenses at the beginning of the calendar year; and

40 (5) be approved by the commission.

41 Sec. 7. If the total amount to be distributed from the fund in a
 42 state fiscal year exceeds the amount available for distribution, the



1 amount to be distributed to each eligible social worker shall be
2 proportionately reduced so that the total reductions equal the
3 amount of the excess.
4 Sec. 8. Each social worker who:
5 (1) applies under this chapter; and
6 (2) is approved under this chapter;
7 shall provide to the commission any information that the
8 commission determines is necessary to administer this chapter.
9 Sec. 9. The commission may adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 that
10 are necessary to implement this chapter.

