ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 45–COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

(ON BEHALF OF THE STATE TREASURER)

PREFILED NOVEMBER 16, 2022

Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Creates a program to repay the student education loans of certain providers of health care. (BDR 18-359)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No. Effect on the State: Yes.

EXPLANATION - Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets [omitted material] is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to health care; creating a program to repay the student education loans of certain providers of health care; prescribing the requirements to receive repayment of student education loans under the program; providing for the administration of the program; providing certain funding for the program; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law requires the State Treasurer to perform certain duties relating to 12345678 the financing of higher education, including designating a Student Loan Ombudsman and administering the Nevada College Savings Trust Fund and the Millennium Scholarship Trust Fund. (NRS 226.400, 226.560, 353B.320, 353B.350, 396.926) Section 6 of this bill creates the Student Loan Repayment for Providers of Health Care in Underserved Communities Program to repay the student education loans of qualified providers of health care who work in certain underserved communities. Section 6 requires the State Treasurer to prioritize certain providers õ of health care when awarding repayment of student education loans under the Program, and section 8 of this bill requires the State Treasurer to adopt regulations 10 11 prescribing the manner in which that prioritization will be implemented. Section 7 12 13 of this bill prescribes the requirements for a provider of health care to be eligible for repayment of student education loans under the Program. Section 8 requires the State Treasurer to adopt regulations to prescribe certain procedures and standards relating to the Program, including: (1) the procedure to apply for repayment of student education loans under the Program; (2) any additional standards for 14 15 16 17 eligibility to receive repayment of student education loans under the Program; and





18 (3) a methodology for determining the amount of repayment of a student education 19 loan that a provider of health care may receive. Section 8 also authorizes the State 20 Treasurer to adopt any other regulations necessary to carry out the Program. 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 Sections 2-5 of this bill define certain terms related to the Program. Sections 8 and 13 of this bill provide for the confidentiality of applications to receive repayment of student education loans under the Program and the personally identifiable information of applicants. Section 9 of this bill: (1) authorizes the State Treasurer to employ the necessary staff to administer the Program; and (2) requires the State Treasurer to post certain information about the Program on an Internet website.

Section 11 of this bill requires the Student Loan Ombudsman to assist certain student loan borrowers to become aware of, qualify for and apply for the Program.

Section 10 of this bill creates the Account for Student Loan Repayment for Providers of Health Care in Underserved Communities in the State General Fund to 31 32 fund the Program. Section 12 of this bill requires the State Treasurer to transfer certain money from the Abandoned Property Trust Account to the Account for 33 Student Loan Repayment for Providers of Health Care in Underserved 34 Communities.

> THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA. REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Chapter 226 of NRS is hereby amended by adding 1 2 thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 10, inclusive, of this 3 act.

4 Sec. 2. As used in sections 2 to 10, inclusive, of this act, 5 unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined 6 in sections 3, 4 and 5 of this act have the meanings ascribed to 7 them those sections.

Sec. 3. "Program" means the Student Loan Repayment for 8 9 **Providers of Health Care in Underserved Communities Program** 10 created by section 6 of this act.

Sec. 4. "Provider of health care" has the meaning ascribed 11 to it in NRS 629.031. 12

"Student education loan" has the meaning ascribed Sec. 5. 13 14 to it in NRS 226.510.

Sec. 6. 1. The Student Loan Repayment for Providers of 15 Health Care in Underserved Communities Program is hereby 16 created to repay the student education loans of providers of health 17 care who are eligible for the Program pursuant to sections 7 and 8 18 19 of this act and any regulations adopted pursuant thereto.

20 21

The State Treasurer shall administer the Program. 2. *3*. In administering the Program, the State Treasurer shall:

(a) Ensure that persons who receive repayment of student 22 23 education loans are committed to providing health care services in 24 an underserved community in this State:

25 (b) Prioritize the repayment of student education loans for 26 providers of primary care and other providers of health care





specified by regulation of the State Treasurer in accordance with 1 2 the regulations adopted pursuant to section 8 of this act; and

3 (c) Work collaboratively to raise awareness about the Program with organizations that work with providers of health care and 4 5 students studying to become providers of health care, including, 6 without limitation:

7 (1) Educational institutions in this State, including, without 8 *limitation, institutions in the Nevada System of Higher Education;*

9 (2) Organizations that represent medical students and other 10 students studying to become providers of health care;

11 12 (3) Organizations that represent providers of health care;

(4) Tribal governments; and

13 (5) Organizations who advocate for improved health 14 outcomes in minority communities.

As used in this section, "primary care" means the practice 15 4. 16 of family medicine, pediatrics, internal medicine or obstetrics and 17 gynecology.

18 **Sec.** 7. A provider of health care is eligible for repayment of a student education loan under the Program if the provider of 19 20 *health care:* 21

1. Is a current resident of this State;

Graduated on or after July 31, 2023, from an institution in 22 2. 23 the Nevada System of Higher Education or another accredited 24 institution of higher education in this State with a degree in a *health-related field;* 25

26 Is actively licensed, certified or registered in good standing *3*. 27 to practice in this State as a provider of health care; and

Commits to at least 5 years of clinical practice as a 28 4. licensed, certified or registered provider of health care in this 29 30 State:

31 (a) In a census tract which, upon commencement of such 32 clinical practice, is designated as a qualified census tract by the United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development 33 pursuant to 26 U.S.C. § 42(d)(5)(B)(ii); 34

35 (b) In a census tract which, upon commencement of such clinical practice, has a high level of social vulnerability as 36 determined according to the Social Vulnerability Index developed 37 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the United 38 States Department of Health and Human Services; 39

(c) In a community in which, according to the decennial 40 census immediately preceding the commencement of such clinical 41 42 practice, at least 20 percent of households were not proficient in 43 the English language;

44 (d) On tribal lands or in a community where tribal members 45 commonly reside; or





1 (e) In a geographic area that has been subject to historical 2 instances of redlining, segregation or other discriminatory 3 practices on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, 4 disability, sexual orientation, sex or gender identity or expression, 5 as determined by the State Treasurer in accordance with the 6 regulations adopted pursuant to section 8 of this act.

7 Sec. 8. 1. A provider of health care who meets the 8 qualifications set forth in section 7 of this act and wishes to 9 receive repayment of student education loans from the Program 10 must submit an application to the State Treasurer in the form 11 prescribed by the State Treasurer and comply with any regulations 12 adopted pursuant to subsection 2.

13

2. The State Treasurer:

(a) Shall adopt regulations prescribing the procedures and
standards, in addition to those prescribed by section 7 of this act,
for determining the eligibility of a provider of health care to
receive repayment of a student education loan from the Program.

18 (b) Shall adopt regulations establishing a methodology for determining the amount of repayment of a student education loan 19 20 that a provider of health care is eligible to receive from the 21 Program. That methodology must include, without limitation, a 22 sliding scale that conditions the amount a provider of health care 23 should receive from the Program on areas of specialization, type 24 of degree and average loan burden for the particular field of 25 *health care in which the provider practices.*

(c) Shall adopt regulations establishing the manner in which
the Program must prioritize the repayment of student education
loans for the providers of health care pursuant to paragraph (b) of
subsection 3 of section 6 of this act.

30 (d) Shall adopt regulations prescribing the manner in which
31 the State Treasurer will determine whether a geographic area
32 meets the requirements of paragraph (e) of subsection 4 of section
33 7 of this act.

(e) Shall adopt regulations prescribing the procedures for the
repayment of a student education loan of a provider of health care
who has been found eligible to receive such repayment from the
Program.

(f) May adopt any other regulations necessary to carry out the
 Program.

40 3. The Program may not provide to a provider of health care 41 more than \$120,000 for the repayment of student education loans.

42 4. The application of a provider of health care for repayment 43 of a student education loan and any related personally identifiable 44 information of the applicant is confidential.

45 Sec. 9. The State Treasurer:





May employ such staff as the State Treasurer deems 1 1. 2 necessary to administer the Program.

3 Shall post information about the Program, including, 2. without limitation, the requirements to be eligible to receive 4 5 repayment of student education loans from the Program and the 6 procedure to apply for such repayment, on an Internet website 7 maintained by the State Treasurer.

8 Sec. 10. 1. The Account for Student Loan Repayment for 9 **Providers of Health Care in Underserved Communities is hereby** 10 created in the State General Fund. The State Treasurer shall 11 administer the Account.

12 13 2. Money for the Account may be provided:

(a) By direct legislative appropriation;

14 (b) By transfer from another account, including, without limitation, the Abandoned Property Trust Account created by NRS 15 16 120A.620; or 17

(c) As provided in subsection 5.

18 19 *3*.

Money in the Account must be used solely: (a) To administer the Account and the Program; and

(b) To repay the student education loans of providers of health 20 21 care who have qualified for such repayment pursuant to sections 7 22 and 8 of this act.

23 4. The interest and income earned on the money in the 24 Account, after deducting any applicable charges, must be credited 25 to the Account. Any money remaining in the Account at the end of 26 a fiscal year does not revert to the State General Fund, and the 27 balance in the Account must be carried forward to the next fiscal 28 vear.

29 5. The State Treasurer may apply for and accept any gift, 30 donation, bequest, grant or other source of money for the purpose of administering the Program and repaying the student education 31 32 loans of providers of health care who have qualified for repayment of student education loans pursuant to sections 7 and 8 of this act. 33 34 The State Treasurer shall deposit any money so received into the 35 Account.

36

37

Sec. 11. NRS 226.570 is hereby amended to read as follows: 226.570 The Student Loan Ombudsman shall:

38 1. Receive, review and attempt to resolve any complaint from a student loan borrower, including, without limitation, attempting to 39 40 resolve such a complaint in collaboration with an institution of higher education, a student loan servicer and any other person who 41 42 participates in providing a student education loan.

43 2. Compile and analyze data on complaints as described in 44 subsection 1.





1 3. Assist student loan borrowers to understand their rights and 2 responsibilities under the terms of student education loans.

4. Provide information to the public, governmental agencies
and the Legislature regarding the problems and concerns of student
loan borrowers and make recommendations for resolving those
problems and concerns.

5. Analyze and monitor the development and implementation
of federal, state and local laws, regulations and policies relating to
student loan borrowers and recommend any changes the Student
Loan Ombudsman deems necessary.

11 6. Review the complete history of any student education loan 12 for any student loan borrower who has provided written consent for 13 such a review.

7. Disseminate information concerning the availability of the Student Loan Ombudsman to assist student loan borrowers, potential student loan borrowers, institutions of higher education, student loan servicers and any other persons who participate in providing a student education loan, with any concerns relating to student loan servicing.

8. Assist student loan borrowers who are pursuing degrees in a health-related field to become aware of, qualify for and apply for the Student Loan Repayment for Providers of Health Care in Underserved Communities Program created by section 6 of this act.

25 **9.** Take any other actions necessary to fulfill the duties of the 26 Student Loan Ombudsman as set forth in this section.

27 Sec. 12. NRS 120A.620 is hereby amended to read as follows:

120A.620 1. There is hereby created in the State General
Fund the Abandoned Property Trust Account.

2. All money received by the Administrator under this chapter,
including the proceeds from the sale of abandoned property, must be
deposited by the Administrator in the State General Fund for credit
to the Account.

34 3. Before making a deposit, the Administrator shall record the 35 name and last known address of each person appearing from the holders' reports to be entitled to the abandoned property and the 36 name and last known address of each insured person or annuitant, 37 38 and with respect to each policy or contract listed in the report of an insurance company, its number, the name of the company and the 39 40 amount due. The record must be available for public inspection at 41 all reasonable business hours.

42 4. The Administrator may pay from money available in the 43 Account:

44 (a) Any costs in connection with the sale of abandoned property.





(b) Any costs of mailing and publication in connection with any 1 2 abandoned property. 3

(c) Reasonable service charges.

4 (d) Any costs incurred in examining the records of a holder and 5 in collecting the abandoned property.

6

33

(e) Any valid claims filed pursuant to this chapter.

7 Except as otherwise provided in NRS 120A.610, by the end 5. 8 of each fiscal year, the balance in the Account must be transferred as 9 follows:

(a) The first \$7,600,000 each year must be transferred to the 10 Millennium Scholarship Trust Fund created by NRS 396.926. 11

12 (b) The next \$1,000,000 each year must be transferred to the 13 Grant Matching Account created by NRS 223.492.

14 (c) The next \$5,000,000 each year must be transferred to the 15 Account for Student Loan Repayment for Providers of Health 16 Care in Underserved Communities created by section 10 of this 17 act.

18 (d) The remainder must be transferred to the State General Fund, 19 but remains subject to the valid claims of holders pursuant to NRS 20 120A.590 and owners pursuant to NRS 120A.640 and any claims 21 approved for payment by the Administrator pursuant to NRS 22 120A.525. No such claim may be satisfied from money in the Millennium Scholarship Trust Fund , [or] the Grant Matching 23 Account [.] or the Account for Student Loan Repayment for 24 25 **Providers of Health Care in Underserved Communities.**

26 If there is an insufficient amount of money in the Account to 6. 27 pay any cost or charge pursuant to subsection 4 or NRS 120A.525, 28 the State Board of Examiners may, upon the application of the 29 Administrator, authorize a temporary transfer from the State General 30 Fund to the Account of an amount necessary to pay those costs or 31 charges. The Administrator shall repay the amount of the transfer as 32 soon as sufficient money is available in the Account.

NRS 239.010 is hereby amended to read as follows: Sec. 13.

Except as otherwise provided in this section and 34 239.010 1. NRS 1.4683, 1.4687, 1A.110, 3.2203, 41.0397, 41.071, 49.095, 35 49.293, 62D.420, 62D.440, 62E.516, 62E.620, 62H.025, 62H.030, 36 37 62H.170, 62H.220, 62H.320, 75A.100, 75A.150, 76.160, 78.152, 80.113, 81.850, 82.183, 86.246, 86.54615, 87.515, 87.5413, 38 87A.200, 87A.580, 87A.640, 88.3355, 88.5927, 88.6067, 88A.345, 39 88A.7345, 89.045, 89.251, 90.730, 91.160, 116.757, 116A.270, 40 118B.026, 119.260, 119.265, 119.267, 41 116B.880, 119.280, 119A.280, 119A.653, 119A.677, 119B.370, 119B.382, 120A.640, 42 43 120A.690, 125.130, 125B.140, 126.141, 126.161, 126.163, 126.730, 127.007, 127.057, 127.130, 127.140, 127.2817, 128.090, 130.312, 44 45 130.712, 136.050, 159.044, 159A.044, 172.075, 172.245, 176.015,





1 176.0625, 176.09129, 176.156, 176A.630, 178.39801, 178.4715, 2 178.5691, 179.495, 179A.070, 179A.165, 179D.160, 200.3771, 200.604, 202.3662, 205.4651, 209.392, 3 200.3772, 200.5095, 209.3925, 209.419, 209.429, 209.521, 211A.140, 4 209.3923. 213.010, 213.040, 213.095, 213.131, 217.105, 217.110, 217.464, 5 217.475, 218A.350, 218E.625, 218F.150, 218G.130, 218G.240, 6 7 218G.350, 224.240, 226.300, 228.270, 228.450, 228.495, 228.570, 8 231.069. 231.1473, 232.1369, 233.190, 237.300, 239.0105, 239.0113, 239.014, 239B.026, 239B.030, 239B.040, 239B.050, 9 239C.140, 239C.210, 239C.230, 239C.250, 239C.270, 239C.420, 10 240.007, 241.020, 241.030, 241.039, 242.105, 244.264, 244.335, 11 247.540, 247.550, 247.560, 250.087, 250.130, 250.140, 250.150, 12 13 268.095, 268.0978, 268.490, 268.910, 269.174, 271A.105, 281.195, 281.805, 281A.350, 281A.680, 281A.685, 281A.750, 281A.755, 14 281A.780, 284.4068, 284.4086, 286.110, 286.118, 287.0438, 15 289.025, 289.080, 289.387, 289.830, 293.4855, 293.5002, 293.503, 16 17 293.504, 293.558, 293.5757, 293.870, 293.906, 293.908, 293.910, 293B.135, 293D.510, 331.110, 332.061, 332.351, 333.333, 333.335, 18 338.070, 338.1379, 338.1593, 338.1725, 338.1727, 348.420, 19 349.775, 353.205, 353A.049, 353A.085, 353A.100, 20 349.597. 353C.240, 360.240, 360.247, 360.255, 360.755, 361.044, 361.2242, 21 22 361.610, 365.138, 366.160, 368A.180, 370.257, 370.327, 372A.080, 23 378.300, 379.0075, 379.008, 379.1495, 385A.830, 378.290. 385B.100, 387.626, 387.631, 388.1455, 388.259, 388.501, 388.503. 24 25 388.513, 388.750, 388A.247, 388A.249, 391.033, 391.035, 391.0365, 391.120, 391.925, 392.029, 392.147, 392.264, 392.271, 26 392.315, 392.317, 392.325, 392.327, 392.335, 392.850, 393.045, 27 28 394.167, 394.16975, 394.1698, 394.447, 394.460, 394.465, 396.1415, 396.1425, 396.143, 396.159, 396.3295, 396.405, 396.525, 29 30 396.535, 396.9685, 398A.115, 408.3885, 408.3886, 408.3888, 414.280, 416.070. 422.2749, 422.305, 31 408.5484. 412.153, 32 422A.342, 422A.350, 425.400, 427A.1236, 427A.872, 432.028, 33 432.205, 432B.175, 432B.280, 432B.290, 432B.4018, 432B.407, 432B.430, 432B.560, 432B.5902, 432C.140, 432C.150, 433.534, 34 433A.360, 439.4941, 439.4988, 439.840, 439.914, 439A.116, 35 439A.124, 439B.420, 439B.754, 439B.760, 439B.845, 440.170, 36 37 441A.195, 441A.220, 441A.230, 442.330, 442.395, 442.735, 442.774, 445A.665, 445B.570, 445B.7773, 447.345, 449.209, 38 449.245, 449.4315, 449A.112, 450.140, 450B.188, 450B.805, 39 453.164, 453.720, 458.055, 458.280, 459.050, 459.3866, 459.555, 40 459.7056, 459.846, 463.120, 463.15993, 463.240, 463.3403, 41 42 463.3407, 463.790, 467.1005, 480.535, 480.545, 480.935, 480.940, 43 481.063, 481.091, 481.093, 482.170, 482.368, 482.5536, 483.340, 44 483.363, 483.575, 483.659, 483.800, 484A.469, 484B.830, 484B.833, 484E.070, 485.316, 501.344, 503.452. 45 522.040,



534A.031, 561.285, 571.160, 584.655, 587.877, 598.0964, 598.098, 1 2 598A.110, 598A.420, 599B.090, 603.070, 603A.210, 604A.303, 604A.710, 612.265, 616B.012, 616B.015, 616B.315, 616B.350, 3 618.341, 618.425, 622.238, 622.310, 623.131, 623A.137, 624.110, 4 5 624.265. 624.327, 625.425, 625A.185, 628.418, 628B.230. 628B.760, 629.069, 6 629.047, 630.133, 630.2671, 630.2672. 7 630.2673, 630.30665, 630.336, 630A.327, 630A.555, 631.332, 8 631.368, 632.121, 632.125, 632.3415, 632.3423, 632.405, 633.283, 9 633.301. 633.4715, 633.4716. 633.4717. 633.524. 634.055. 634.1303, 634.214, 634A.169, 634A.185, 635.111. 10 635.158, 636.262, 636.342, 637.085, 637.145, 637B.192, 637B.288, 638.087, 11 12 638.089, 639.183, 639.2485, 639.570, 640.075, 640.152, 640A.185, 13 640A.220, 640B.405, 640B.730, 640C.580, 640C.600, 640C.620, 640C.745, 640C.760, 640D.135, 640D.190, 640E.225, 640E.340, 14 15 641.090, 641.221, 641.2215, 641.325, 641A.191, 641A.217, 641A.262, 641B.170, 641B.281, 641B.282, 641C.455, 641C.760, 16 17 641D.260, 641D.320, 642.524, 643.189, 644A.870, 645.180, 645.625, 645A.050, 645A.082, 645B.060, 645B.092, 645C.220, 18 645C.225, 645D.130, 645D.135, 645G.510, 645H.320, 645H.330, 19 20 647.0945, 647.0947, 648.033, 648.197, 649.065, 649.067, 652.126, 21 652.228, 653.900, 654.110, 656.105, 657A.510, 661.115, 665.130, 22 665.133, 669.275, 669.285, 669A.310, 671.170, 673.450, 673.480, 675.380, 676A.340, 676A.370, 677.243, 678A.470, 678C.710, 23 678C.800, 679B.122, 679B.124, 679B.152, 679B.159, 679B.190, 24 25 679B.285, 679B.690, 680A.270, 681A.440, 681B.260, 681B.410, 26 681B.540, 683A.0873, 685A.077, 686A.289, 686B.170, 686C.306, 27 687A.060, 687A.115, 687B.404, 687C.010, 688C.230, 688C.480, 28 688C.490, 689A.696, 692A.117, 692C.190, 692C.3507, 692C.3536, 29 692C.3538, 692C.354, 692C.420, 693A.480, 693A.615, 696B.550, 696C.120, 703.196, 704B.325, 706.1725, 706A.230, 710.159, 30 711.600, and section 8 of this act, sections 35, 38 and 41 of chapter 31 32 478, Statutes of Nevada 2011 and section 2 of chapter 391, Statutes 33 of Nevada 2013 and unless otherwise declared by law to be confidential, all public books and public records of a governmental 34 35 entity must be open at all times during office hours to inspection by 36 any person, and may be fully copied or an abstract or memorandum 37 may be prepared from those public books and public records. Any 38 such copies, abstracts or memoranda may be used to supply the 39 general public with copies, abstracts or memoranda of the records or 40 may be used in any other way to the advantage of the governmental entity or of the general public. This section does not supersede or in 41 42 any manner affect the federal laws governing copyrights or enlarge, 43 diminish or affect in any other manner the rights of a person in any 44 written book or record which is copyrighted pursuant to federal law.





1 2. A governmental entity may not reject a book or record 2 which is copyrighted solely because it is copyrighted.

3 A governmental entity that has legal custody or control of a 3. 4 public book or record shall not deny a request made pursuant to 5 subsection 1 to inspect or copy or receive a copy of a public book or 6 record on the basis that the requested public book or record contains information that is confidential if the governmental entity can 7 8 redact, delete, conceal or separate, including, without limitation, 9 electronically, the confidential information from the information included in the public book or record that is not otherwise 10 11 confidential.

4. If requested, a governmental entity shall provide a copy of a
public record in an electronic format by means of an electronic
medium. Nothing in this subsection requires a governmental entity
to provide a copy of a public record in an electronic format or by
means of an electronic medium if:

(a) The public record:

17 18 19

(1) Was not created or prepared in an electronic format; and

(2) Is not available in an electronic format; or

20 (b) Providing the public record in an electronic format or by 21 means of an electronic medium would:

22

(1) Give access to proprietary software; or

23 (2) Require the production of information that is confidential
24 and that cannot be redacted, deleted, concealed or separated from
25 information that is not otherwise confidential.

5. An officer, employee or agent of a governmental entity who has legal custody or control of a public record:

(a) Shall not refuse to provide a copy of that public record in the
medium that is requested because the officer, employee or agent has
already prepared or would prefer to provide the copy in a different
medium.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in NRS 239.030, shall, upon
request, prepare the copy of the public record and shall not require
the person who has requested the copy to prepare the copy himself
or herself.

36 **Sec. 14.** 1. This section becomes effective upon passage and 37 approval.

38 2. Sections 1 to 13, inclusive, of this act become effective:

(a) Upon passage and approval for the purpose of adopting anyregulations and performing any other preparatory administrative

(30)

41 tasks that are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act; and

42 (b) On January 1, 2024, for all other purposes.



