

SENATE, No. 3547

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 30, 2023

Sponsored by:

Senator NELLIE POU

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE

District 19 (Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Modifies Nursing Faculty Loan Redemption Program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/30/2023)

1 AN ACT concerning the Nursing Faculty Loan Redemption Program
2 and amending and supplementing P.L.2009, c.236.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. Section 4 of P.L.2009, c.236 (C.18A:71C-53) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 4. a. There is established within the Higher Education Student
10 Assistance Authority the Nursing Faculty Loan Redemption
11 Program. The purpose of the program is to address the current and
12 projected critical shortage of nursing faculty in the State by
13 providing an incentive for persons to enter graduate nursing
14 education programs and for persons already trained as nurses to
15 advance their training in the profession so as to ensure that
16 sufficient numbers of nursing faculty are available to train nursing
17 students, and the State's hospitals, nursing homes, veterans'
18 facilities and home care services and community care programs will
19 have sufficient, trained nursing staff in the future to provide quality
20 health care services to the residents of this State.

21 The program shall provide loan redemption in exchange for full-
22 time and part-time faculty employment at a school of nursing in the
23 State for a five-year period **【following completion of the approved**
24 **graduate degree program. The authority may establish a limit on**
25 **the total amount of student loans which may be redeemed for**
26 **participants under the program】.**

27 b. In developing the program, the authority shall collaborate
28 with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation New Jersey Nursing
29 Initiative and such other entities as the authority deems appropriate.
30 (cf: P.L.2009, c.236, s.4)

31

32 2. Section 5 of P.L.2009, c.236 (C.18A:71C-54) is amended to
33 read as follows:

34 5. To be eligible to participate in the program, an applicant
35 shall:

36 a. be a resident of the State and maintain domicile in the State
37 during participation in the program; and

38 b. (1) have obtained a master's degree in nursing (MSN), a
39 doctor of nursing science degree (DNS), a doctor of nursing
40 practice degree (DNP), a doctor of philosophy degree (PhD) in
41 nursing or another relevant field of study **【within a one-year period**
42 **prior to being】** and be hired for full-time or part-time faculty
43 employment on or after the date of enactment of **【this act】**
44 P.L.2009, c.236 (C.18A:71C-50 et seq.); and

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **【thus】 in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 (2) have maintained a grade point average of 3.0 or higher on a
2 scale of 4.0, or its equivalent, while enrolled in an approved
3 graduate degree program.

4 (cf: P.L.2009, c.236, s.5)

5
6 3. (New section) a. For each year of full-time faculty
7 employment at an eligible institution, the program shall provide
8 \$10,000 to a program participant, up to a maximum five years, for
9 the redemption of eligible student loan expenses. For each year of
10 part-time faculty employment at an eligible institution, the program
11 shall provide \$5,000 to a program participant, up to a maximum of
12 five years, for the redemption of eligible student loan expenses.
13 The total loan redemption amount for a program participant shall
14 not exceed \$50,000.

15 b. No amount of loan redemption shall be provided for service
16 performed for less than a full year. Loan redemption shall be
17 applied first to outstanding State loans and then to outstanding
18 Federal loans.

19
20 4. (New section) a. The Higher Education Student Assistance
21 Authority shall work with schools of nursing in the State to provide
22 information on the Nursing Faculty Loan Redemption Program to
23 students upon enrollment.

24 b. The authority shall work with hospitals and medical centers,
25 professional associations, and schools of nursing in the State to
26 promote awareness of the Nursing Faculty Loan Redemption
27 Program and the value of graduate nursing education programs,
28 among active and retired nurses and others interested in the nursing
29 profession.

30
31 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

32
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34 STATEMENT

35
36 This bill modifies the Nursing Faculty Loan Redemption Program
37 to increase participation rates. The Nursing Faculty Loan Redemption
38 Program offers student loan redemption up to \$50,000 in exchange for
39 full-time faculty employment at a school of nursing in the State for a
40 five-year period following graduate program completion.

41 The bill removes a provision of current law that limits program
42 eligibility to participants who were hired for faculty employment
43 within one year of completion of their academic degree. The bill also
44 extends program eligibility to participants employed in part-time
45 faculty positions.

46 The bill establishes the loan redemption amounts that will be
47 received by a participant for each year of participation in the
48 program. Under the bill, for each year of full-time faculty

1 employment at an eligible institution, the program will provide
2 \$10,000 to a program participant, up to a maximum five years, for
3 the redemption of eligible student loan expenses. Under current
4 State regulations, participants employed in full-time positions are
5 eligible for: \$5,000 in loan redemption for the first year; \$7,000 in
6 loan redemption for the second year; \$10,000 in loan redemption
7 for the third year; \$13,000 in loan redemption for the fourth year;
8 and \$15,000 in loan redemption for the fifth year. The bill also
9 provides that, for each year of part-time faculty employment at an
10 eligible institution, the program will provide \$5,000 to a program
11 participant, up to a maximum of five years, for the redemption of
12 eligible student loan expenses. The total loan redemption amount
13 for a program participant will not exceed \$50,000. The bill further
14 provides that no amount of loan redemption will be provided for
15 service performed for less than a full year. Loan redemption will be
16 applied first to outstanding State loans and then to outstanding
17 Federal loans.

18 The bill also directs the Higher Education Student Assistance
19 Authority to work with schools of nursing in the State to provide
20 information on the Nursing Faculty Loan Redemption Program to
21 students upon enrollment. The bill also directs the authority to
22 work with hospitals and medical centers, professional associations,
23 and schools of nursing to promote awareness of the Nursing Faculty
24 Loan Redemption Program and the value of graduate nursing
25 education programs.