

1 Administration means the person employed pursuant to section two,
2 article four, chapter eighteen-b of this code.

3 (b) There is hereby created a Special Revolving Fund account
4 under the commission in the state treasury to be known as the
5 Dentist and Hygienist Education Student Loan Fund which shall be
6 used to carry out the purposes of this section. The fund consists
7 of:

8 (1) Appropriations provided by the Legislature;

9 (2) Repayment of any loans made under this section;

10 (3) Amounts provided by Dentist, or Hygienist Associations,
11 hospitals or other medical provider organizations in this state, or
12 by political subdivisions of the state, under an agreement which
13 requires the recipient to practice his or her dentist or hygienist
14 profession in the political subdivision providing the funds, or
15 otherwise in this state, for a predetermined period of time and
16 that thirty percent of their practice be dedicated to persons who
17 receive services under the state Medicaid program set forth in
18 chapter nine of this code; and

19 (4) Other amounts available from external sources.

20 Balances remaining in the fund at the end of the fiscal year
21 do not expire or revert. All costs associated with administering
22 this section shall be paid from the Dentist and Hygienist Education
23 Student Loan Fund.

1 (c) The Vice Chancellor for Administration may utilize any
2 funds in the Health Education Student Loan Fund for the purposes of
3 the dentists or hygienist student loan program. The commission
4 shall determine and give priority for the loans to residents of
5 this state. An individual is eligible for loan consideration upon:

6 (1) Demonstrating financial need;

7 (2) Meeting established academic standards;

8 (3) Enrolling in or being accepted for enrollment in an
9 accredited institution of higher education in this state in a
10 program leading to the degree of dentist or hygienist;

11 (4) Continued education towards obtaining, but having not yet
12 received, one of the degrees provided in subdivision (3) of this
13 subsection;

14 (5) An agreement to dedicate at least thirty percent of his or
15 her practice to persons receiving services under the state Medicaid
16 program; and

17 (6) A showing of no default on any previous student loan.

18 (d) At the end of each fiscal year, an individual who has
19 received a dentist or hygienist student loan and rendered services
20 as a dentist or hygienist in this state in a medically underserved
21 area or in a dental or hygienist specialty in which there is a
22 shortage of qualified dentists or dental hygienists as determined
23 by the Division of Health at the time the loan was granted, may

1 submit to the commission a notarized, sworn statement of service on
2 a form provided for that purpose. Upon receipt of the statement
3 the commission shall cancel \$5,000 of the outstanding loan or loans
4 for every full twelve consecutive calendar months of such service.

5 (e) No later than thirty days following the end of each fiscal
6 year, the Vice Chancellor for Administration shall prepare and
7 submit a report to the commission for inclusion in the statewide
8 report card required under section eight, article one-b, chapter
9 eighteen-b of this code to be submitted to the Legislative
10 Oversight Commission on Education Accountability established under
11 section eleven, article three-a of chapter twenty-nine-a of this
12 code. At a minimum, the report shall include the following
13 information:

- 14 (1) The number of loans awarded in each specialty area;
15 (2) The total amount of loans awarded;
16 (3) The amount of unexpended moneys in the fund; and
17 (4) The rate of default during the previous fiscal year on the
18 repayment of loans granted pursuant to this section.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to provide a loan forgiveness program for dentists and hygienists similar to what currently exists for medical doctors and osteopathic physicians.

This section is new; therefore, strike-throughs and underscoring have been omitted.

This bill was recommended for passage during the 2012 Regular Session of the Legislature by the Joint Committee on Health.