

**Senate Bill No. 648**

(By Senators Plymale, Chafin, Jenkins, Cann and Stollings)

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[Introduced March 25, 2013; referred to the Committee on  
Education; and then to the Committee on Finance.]

**FISCAL  
NOTE**

10 A BILL to amend and reenact §18C-3-2 of the Code of West Virginia,  
11 1931, as amended, relating to providing state aid for certain  
12 students pursuing certain degrees; requiring a service  
13 commitment to state and setting forth alternatives to service;  
14 requiring legislative rule; and specifying rule provisions.

15 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

16 That §18C-3-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended,  
17 be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

18 **ARTICLE 3. HEALTH PROFESSIONALS STUDENT LOAN PROGRAMS.**

19 **§18C-3-2. State aid for students of optometry.**

20 (a) The ~~board of trustees is hereby~~ commission is authorized  
21 to enter into ~~a contract~~ contracts with an educational institution  
22 or institutions outside the state that offer training in optometry,  
23 podiatry or veterinary medicine by the terms of which the ~~board of~~

1 ~~trustees~~ commission may obligate itself to pay the institution,  
2 within the limits of any appropriation made for the purpose, a  
3 stated amount per year for each West Virginia student the  
4 institution will agree to accept for training in optometry,  
5 podiatry or veterinary medicine.

6 (b) Each year the ~~board of trustees~~ commission shall ~~each year~~  
7 send to any ~~such~~ appropriate institution a certified list of all  
8 persons applying to the ~~trustees~~ commission for training in  
9 optometry, podiatry or veterinary medicine who are bona fide  
10 citizens and residents of this state prior to ~~the~~ filing ~~of~~ their  
11 applications, and who have completed either within or without the  
12 state the course of study required by the institution as a  
13 prerequisite to the study of optometry, podiatry or veterinary  
14 medicine.

15 (c) Upon graduation from an educational institution for study  
16 of optometry, podiatry or veterinary medicine, a person who  
17 receives state aid under this section is required to:

18 (1) Practice full-time in this state in the field for which he  
19 or she obtained financial aid, one year for every year the student  
20 received aid under this section; or

21 (2) Reimburse the commission for the amount received under  
22 this section.

23 (d) The commission shall propose a legislative rule in  
24 accordance with the provisions of article three-a, chapter twenty-

1 nine-a of this code to implement the provisions of this section.  
2 The rule shall address at least the following items:  
3     (1) Eligibility and selection criteria;  
4     (2) Reimbursement and repayment;  
5     (3) Forgiveness options for death or disability;  
6     (4) Terms of an agreement to which the student must agree; and  
7     (5) An appeal process.  
8     (e) If considered necessary by the commission, the provisions  
9 of this section may be extended by legislative rule to other  
10 professional degrees which are not provided in the state, but which  
11 are needed to enhance the state's economy.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to provide financial aid to students who are pursuing certain professional degrees which are not offered in the state to pursue those degrees in another state in return for a service commitment in West Virginia.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from the present law, and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.