

**E N R O L L E D**

**H. B. 2976**

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(BY DELEGATE(S) PASDON, PERRY,  
ROHRBACH, CAMPBELL AND ELLINGTON)

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[Passed March 12, 2015;  
in effect from passage.]

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AN ACT to amend and reenact §18C-3-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to expanding the eligible master's and doctoral level programs for which a Nursing Scholarship may be awarded.

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

That §18C-3-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended and reenacted, all to read as follows:

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

**§18C-3-4. Nursing Scholarship Program; Center for Nursing Fund; administration; scholarship awards; service requirements.**

1 (a) There is continued in the State Treasury a special revenue  
2 account known as the “Center for Nursing Fund” to be  
3 administered by the commission to implement the provisions of  
4 this section and article seven-b, chapter thirty of this code. Any  
5 moneys in the account on the effective date of this section are  
6 transferred to the commission’s administrative authority.  
7 Balances remaining in the fund at the end of the fiscal year do  
8 not expire or revert to the general revenue. All costs associated  
9 with the administration of this section and article seven-b,  
10 chapter thirty of this code shall be paid from the Center for  
11 Nursing Fund under the direction of the Vice Chancellor for  
12 Administration. Administrative costs are to be minimized and  
13 the maximum amount feasible is to be used to fund awards for  
14 students in nursing programs.

15 (b) The account is funded from the following sources:

16 (1) A supplemental licensure fee, not to exceed \$10 per year,  
17 to be paid by all nurses licensed by the Board of Examiners for  
18 Registered Professional Nurses, pursuant to section eight-a,  
19 article seven, chapter thirty of this code, and the Board of  
20 Examiners for Licensed Practical Nurses, pursuant to section  
21 seven-a, article seven-a, chapter thirty of this code;

22 (2) Repayments, including interest as set by the Vice  
23 Chancellor for Administration, collected from recipients who fail  
24 to practice or teach in West Virginia under the terms of the  
25 scholarship agreement; and

26 (3) Any other funds from any source as may be added to the  
27 account.

28 (c) In consultation with the board of directors of the West  
29 Virginia Center for Nursing, established pursuant to article  
30 seven-b, chapter thirty of this code, the commission shall  
31 administer a scholarship, designated the “Nursing Scholarship  
32 Program”, designed to benefit nurses who practice in hospitals  
33 and other health care institutions or teach in state nursing  
34 programs.

35 (1) Awards are available for students enrolled in accredited  
36 nursing programs in West Virginia. A recipient shall execute an  
37 agreement to fulfill a service requirement or repay the amount of  
38 any award received.

39 (2) Awards are made as follows, subject to the rule required  
40 by this section:

41 (A) An award for any student may not exceed the full cost of  
42 education for program completion;

43 (B) An award of up to \$3,000 is available for a student in a  
44 licensed practical nurse education program. A recipient is  
45 required to practice nursing in West Virginia for one year  
46 following program completion;

47 (C) An award of up to \$7,500 is available for a student who  
48 has completed one-half of a registered nurse education program.  
49 A recipient is required to teach or practice nursing in West  
50 Virginia for two years following program completion.

51 (D) An award of up to \$15,000 is available to a student in a  
52 nursing master’s degree program or a doctoral nursing or  
53 education program. A recipient is required to teach in West  
54 Virginia for two years following program completion.

55 (E) An award of up to \$1,000 per year is available for a  
56 student obtaining a licensed practical nurse teaching certificate.

57 A recipient is required to teach in West Virginia for one year per  
58 award received.

59 (d) An award recipient shall satisfy one of the following  
60 conditions:

61 (1) Fulfill the service requirement pursuant to this section  
62 and the legislative rule; or

63 (2) Repay the commission for the amount awarded, together  
64 with accrued interest as stipulated in the service agreement.

65 (e) The commission shall promulgate a rule for legislative  
66 approval pursuant to article three-a, chapter twenty-nine-a of this  
67 code to implement and administer this section. The rule shall  
68 provide for the following:

69 (1) Eligibility and selection criteria for program  
70 participation;

71 (2) Terms of a service agreement which a recipient shall  
72 execute as a condition of receiving an award;

73 (3) Repayment provisions for a recipient who fails to fulfill  
74 the service requirement;

75 (4) Forgiveness options for death or disability of a recipient;

76 (5) An appeal process for students denied participation or  
77 ordered to repay awards; and

78 (6) Additional provisions as necessary to implement this  
79 section.

80 (f) The commission shall report annually by December 1, to  
81 the Legislative Oversight Commission on Health and Human  
82 Resources Accountability and the Legislative Oversight

83 Commission on Education Accountability on the number of  
84 award recipients and all other matters relevant to the provisions  
85 of this section.



That Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

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*Chairman, House Committee*

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*Chairman, Senate Committee*

Originating in the House.

In effect from passage.

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*Clerk of the House of Delegates*

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*Clerk of the Senate*

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*Speaker of the House of Delegates*

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*President of the Senate*

The within \_\_\_\_\_ this the \_\_\_\_\_  
day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

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*Governor*

