

H. B. 2052

(By Delegates Marshall, Moore, Mahan, Guthrie,
Kominar and Moye)

[Introduced January 12, 2011; referred to the
Committee on Education then Finance.]

**FISCAL
NOTE**

A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by
adding thereto a new section, designated §18C-3-1a, relating
to providing a loan forgiveness program for nurses, social
workers, dentists and hygienists.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended
by adding thereto a new section, designated §18C-3-1a, to read as
follows:

ARTICLE 3. HEALTH PROFESSIONALS STUDENT LOAN PROGRAMS.

**§18C-3-1a. Nursing education, social worker education, dentist or
hygienist education loan program; administration;
eligibility and loan cancellation; required report.**

(a) For the purposes of this section, Vice Chancellor of
Administration means the person employed pursuant to section two,

1 article four, chapter eighteen-b of this code.

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

7 (1) Appropriations provided by the Legislature;

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

9 (3) Amounts provided by Nursing, Social Worker, Dentist, or
10 Hygienist Associations, hospitals or other medical provider
11 organizations in this state, or by political subdivisions of the
12 state, under an agreement which requires the recipient to practice
13 his or her nursing, social worker, dentist or hygienist profession
14 in the political subdivision providing the funds, or otherwise in
15 this state, for a predetermined period of time; and

16 (4) Other amounts available from external sources.

17 Balances remaining in the fund at the end of the fiscal year
18 do not expire or revert. All costs associated with administering
19 this section shall be paid from the Nursing, Social Worker, Dentist
20 and Hygienist Education Student Loan Fund.

21 (c) The Vice Chancellor for Administration may utilize any
22 funds in the Health Education Student Loan Fund for the purposes of
23 the nursing, social worker, dentists or hygienist student loan
24 program. The commission shall determine and give priority for the

1 loans to residents of this state. An individual is eligible for
2 loan consideration upon:

3 (1) Demonstrating financial need;

4 (2) Meeting established academic standards;

5 (3) Is enrolled or accepted for enrollment in an accredited
6 institution of higher education in this state in a program leading
7 to the degree of licensed practical nurse or registered nurse,
8 social worker, dentist or hygienist;

9 (4) Not yet receiving one of the degrees provided in
10 subdivision (3) of this subsection; and

11 (5) Not defaulting on any previous student loan.

12 (d) At the end of each fiscal year, any individual who has
13 received a nursing, social worker, dentist or hygienist student
14 loan and rendered services as a licensed practical nurse or
15 registered nurse, a social worker, dentist or hygienist in this
16 state in a medically underserved area or in a nursing, social work
17 or dental or hygienist specialty in which there is a shortage of
18 qualified nurses, social workers, dentists or dental hygienists as
19 determined by the Division of Health at the time the loan was
20 granted, may submit to the commission a notarized, sworn statement
21 of service on a form provided for that purpose. Upon receipt of
22 the statement the commission shall cancel \$5,000 of the outstanding
23 loan or loans for every full twelve consecutive calendar months of
24 such service.

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

9 (1) The number of loans awarded in each specialty area;

10 (2) The total amount of the loans awarded;

11 (3) The amount of any unexpended moneys in the fund; and

12 (4) The rate of default during the previous fiscal year on the
13 repayment of loans granted pursuant to this section.

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

This section is new; therefore, it has been completely underscored.