

HCS SB 980 -- NURSING AND TEACHING SCHOLARSHIPS

This bill changes the laws regarding the Nursing Student Loan Repayment Program. "Eligible student" is defined as a person who has been accepted as a full-time nursing student, rather than a person who has applied for admission. Currently, 25% of the loan is forgiven for each year of employment. The bill revises the repayment provision to allow forgiveness through employment without a specific schedule.

The bill also establishes the Urban Flight and Rural Needs Scholarship Program for up to 100 college education students who meet the grade point requirement and agree to teach in certain school districts. The scholarship may also be granted to certain community college students or individuals who have completed a bachelor's degree and make a commitment to pursue a career in teaching. The scholarship covers up to four years of tuition and fees at a Missouri college or university and is forgiven at a rate of one year of scholarship for every two years of teaching; otherwise, the scholarship is converted to a loan which is to be repaid at 9.5% interest a year. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will administer the program and provide 75% of the scholarship amount, subject to appropriations. The school district with which the recipient contracts will provide the remaining 25%. The department may defer interest under certain conditions and may sell the loan to the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority (MOHELA).

The Urban Flight and Rural Needs Scholarship Program Fund is created and will consist of all moneys appropriated, gifts, contributions, grants, or bequests which are to be used solely for awarding scholarships under this program.