



Rep. Lamont J. Robinson, Jr.

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10200HB4720ham001

LRB102 25675 NLB 36454 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 4720

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend House Bill 4720, AS AMENDED,
3 by replacing everything after the enacting clause with the
4 following:

5 "Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Human
6 Services Professional Loan Repayment Program Act.

7 Section 5. Purpose. The purpose of the Human Services
8 Professional Loan Repayment Program is to recruit and retain
9 qualified human service professionals to work for
10 community-based human services providers. Due to numerous
11 factors, human services agencies have a high turnover rate and
12 struggle to maintain consistent staffing levels. Many of these
13 positions require degrees in human services-related fields of
14 study. In addition, most human services positions require a
15 graduate degree or postsecondary degree or certification. The
16 higher education requirements for the human services workforce

1 often means that many students graduate with a high level of
2 debt for a job that pays slightly above minimum wage with a
3 great deal of stress and burnout.

4 Section 10. Definitions. In this Act:

5 "Commission" means the Illinois Student Assistance
6 Commission.

7 "Professional" means an individual employed by a human
8 services agency that contracts with or is grant-funded by a
9 State agency for the purposes of providing direct or indirect
10 services that ensure that individuals have the essential
11 elements to build and maintain physical, emotional, and
12 economic well-being at every phase of life.

13 "Program" means the Human Services Professional Loan
14 Repayment Program.

15 "Qualified program" means a program that offers an
16 associate, bachelor's, or master's degree from an accredited
17 college or university.

18 "State agency" means the Department of Human Services, the
19 Department of Children and Family Services, the Department of
20 Juvenile Justice, the Department on Aging, and the Department
21 of Public Health.

22 Section 15. Establishment of the Program. The Human
23 Services Professional Loan Repayment Program is created and
24 shall be administered by the Commission. Subject to

1 appropriation, the Program shall provide loan repayment
2 assistance to eligible professionals practicing in a
3 community-based, human services agency that contracts with or
4 is grant-funded by a State agency.

5 Section 20. Applications. Each year for which funds have
6 been appropriated, the Commission shall receive and consider
7 applications for loan repayment assistance under this Act. All
8 applications must be submitted to the Commission in a form and
9 manner prescribed by the Commission. An eligible professional
10 must submit any supporting documents deemed necessary by the
11 Commission at the time of application.

12 Section 25. Award; maximum loan time; maximum amount. The
13 Commission shall award a grant to each eligible applicant for
14 a cumulative maximum of 4 years. The recipient of a grant
15 awarded by the Commission under this Act must use the grant
16 award for payments toward the recipient's educational loans
17 from a qualified program. The amount of the grant shall not
18 exceed: (i) \$25,000 per year for a master's degree or higher;
19 (ii) \$15,000 per year for a bachelor's degree; (iii) \$3,000
20 per year for a professional with an associate degree; and (iv)
21 up to a \$5,000 per year add-on if independently licensed as a
22 licensed clinical social worker, a licensed clinical
23 professional counselor, a licensed practitioner of the healing
24 arts, a licensed marriage and family therapist, a

1 board-certified behavior analyst, or a registered behavior
2 technician.

3 Section 30. Eligibility; work requirement.

4 (a) To be eligible to receive a grant under the Human
5 Services Professional Loan Repayment Program, the Commission
6 must find that the eligible professional satisfies all of the
7 following:

8 (1) The applicant is a resident of the State of
9 Illinois.

10 (2) The applicant has worked for at least 24
11 consecutive months as a full-time employee as a human
12 services professional in a community-based human services
13 agency that currently has or did have a contract with a
14 State agency to provide human services during the duration
15 of applicant's 24 consecutive month tenure.

16 (3) The applicant is a borrower with an outstanding
17 balance due on an educational loan.

18 (4) The applicant has not defaulted on an educational
19 loan.

20 (5) The applicant must remain a full-time employee as
21 a human services professional in the same community-based
22 human services agency for at least 12 months after
23 receiving this grant.

24 (b) The Commission may grant preference to a previous
25 recipient of a grant under the Program, provided that the

1 recipient continues to meet the eligibility requirements under
2 this Section.

3 Section 35. Administration; rules. The Commission shall
4 administer the Program and shall adopt rules not inconsistent
5 with this Act for the Program's effective implementation.

6 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect January
7 1, 2023."