



Sen. Laura Fine

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10200SB3925sam001

LRB102 22989 NHT 35698 a

1 AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 3925

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend Senate Bill 3925 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

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

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

1 debt for a job that pays slightly above minimum wage with a
2 great deal of stress and burnout.

3 Section 10. Definitions. In this Act:

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

6 "Eligible applicant" means a student who has graduated
7 with a degree from an accredited college or university with an
8 associate, bachelor's, or master's degree in a human services
9 field or has been independently licensed as a licensed
10 clinical social worker, a licensed clinical professional
11 counselor, a licensed practitioner of the healing arts, a
12 licensed marriage and family therapist, a board-certified
13 behavior analyst, or a registered behavior technician.

14 "Professional" means a position funded by a grant or
15 contract from a State agency for the purposes of providing
16 direct or indirect services that ensure that individuals have
17 the essential elements to build and maintain physical,
18 emotional, and economic well-being at every phase of life.

19 "Program" means the Human Services Professional Loan
20 Repayment Program.

21 "Qualified program" means a program that offers an
22 associate, bachelor's, or master's degree in a human services
23 field from an accredited college or university for the purpose
24 of training and preparing students to be human services
25 professionals.

1 "State agency" means the Department of Human Services, the
2 Department of Children and Family Services, the Department of
3 Juvenile Justice, the Department on Aging, and the Department
4 of Public Health.

5 Section 15. Establishment of the Program. The Human
6 Services Professional Loan Repayment Program is created and
7 shall be administered by the Commission. Subject to
8 appropriation, the Program shall provide loan repayment
9 assistance to eligible direct service professionals practicing
10 in a community-based, human services agency that contracts
11 with or is grant-funded by a State agency.

12 Section 20. Applications. Each year for which funds have
13 been appropriated, the Commission shall receive and consider
14 applications for loan repayment assistance under this Act. All
15 applications must be submitted to the Commission in a form and
16 manner prescribed by the Commission. An eligible applicant
17 must submit any supporting documents deemed necessary by the
18 Commission at the time of application.

19 Section 25. Award; maximum loan time; maximum amount. The
20 Commission shall award a grant to each eligible applicant for
21 a cumulative maximum of 4 years. The recipient of a grant
22 awarded by the Commission under this Act must use the grant
23 award for payments toward the recipient's educational loans

1 from a qualified program. The amount of the grant shall not
2 exceed: (i) \$25,000 per year for a master's degree in human
3 services or higher; (ii) \$15,000 per year for a bachelor's
4 degree in human services; (iii) \$3,000 per year for a direct
5 service worker with an associate degree; and (iv) up to a
6 \$5,000 per year add-on if independently licensed as a licensed
7 clinical social worker, a licensed clinical professional
8 counselor, a licensed practitioner of the healing arts, a
9 licensed marriage and family therapist, a board-certified
10 behavior analyst, or a registered behavior technician.

11 Section 30. Eligibility; work requirement.

12 (a) To be eligible to receive a grant under the Human
13 Services Professional Loan Repayment Program, the Commission
14 must find that the eligible applicant satisfies all of the
15 following:

16 (1) The applicant is a United States citizen or an
17 eligible noncitizen.

18 (2) The applicant is a resident of the State of
19 Illinois.

20 (3) The applicant has worked for at least 24
21 consecutive months as a full-time employee as a human
22 services professional in a community-based human services
23 agency that currently has or did have a contract with a
24 State agency to provide human services during the duration
25 of applicant's 24 consecutive month tenure.

1 (4) The applicant holds a degree from a qualified
2 program.

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

5 (6) The applicant has not defaulted on an educational
6 loan.

7 (7) The applicant must remain a full-time employee as
8 a human services professional in a community-based human
9 services agency for at least 12 months after receiving
10 this grant.

11 (b) If the recipient of this grant fails to maintain
12 full-time employment in a community-based human services
13 agency for at least 12 months after receiving the grant, the
14 Commission shall require the recipient to begin to repay the
15 total amount of the grant within 90 calendar days after
16 notification of employment ending. The repayment amount shall
17 be prorated according to the fraction of employment obligation
18 not completed, at a rate of interest equal to 5%.

19 (c) If the recipient's employment at a community-based
20 human services agency is terminated for any reason other than
21 for cause, the recipient must search for, apply to, and accept
22 new, qualified, full-time employment as a human services
23 professional in a community-based human services agency within
24 90 calendar days from the recipient's termination of full-time
25 employment, otherwise the stipend recipient is subject to the
26 repayment of stipend funds to the Commission.

1 (d) If the recipient's employment at a community-based
2 human services agency is terminated for cause, the recipient
3 shall repay the total amount of the grant received under this
4 program within 90 calendar days after termination of full-time
5 employment. The amount of repayment owed by the recipient
6 shall be prorated based on the amount of the employment
7 requirement that has been satisfied.

8 The Commission may grant preference to a previous
9 recipient of a grant under the Program, provided that the
10 recipient continues to meet the eligibility requirements under
11 this Section.

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

15 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect January
16 1, 2023."