



103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

SB3714

Introduced 2/9/2024, by Sen. Lakesia Collins

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Community Hospice and Palliative Care Professional Loan Repayment Program Act. Provides that, by January 1, 2025, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission shall create and administer the Community Behavioral Health Care Professional Loan Repayment Program. Provides that the Program shall provide loan repayment assistance, subject to appropriation, to eligible hospice and palliative professionals practicing in a hospice program that provides services in the State. Provides that the Commission shall award a grant to each qualified applicant for a maximum of 4 years. Sets forth provisions concerning awarding funds, eligibility, work requirements, and priority of awarding funds. Provides for rulemaking. Provides that the Act is inoperative 10 years after the effective date of the Act. Effective immediately.

LRB103 38778 RJT 68915 b

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Community Hospice and Palliative Care Professional Loan
6 Repayment Program Act.

7 Section 5. Purpose. The purpose of this Act is to help
8 licensed hospice programs recruit and retain qualified
9 professionals and address this State's community-based hospice
10 and palliative care workforce shortage. The goal of the
11 program is to reduce disparities in access to critical health
12 services for people who have serious illnesses or who are
13 nearing the end of life.

14 Section 7. Findings. The General Assembly finds all of the
15 following:

16 (1) Racial minorities are underrepresented as hospice
17 and palliative care and interdisciplinary healthcare
18 providers in the State.

19 (2) It is in the interest of the State to provide
20 racial minorities priority in consideration for programs
21 that encourage racial minority participation in hospice
22 and palliative care and interdisciplinary healthcare

1 providers.

2 (3) A workforce that is more reflective of the
3 seriously ill population in a minority community can
4 improve the use of hospice and palliative care services,
5 which will address inequities in health outcomes for this
6 population.

7 Section 10. Definitions. In this Act:

8 "Commission" means the Illinois Student Assistance
9 Commission.

10 "Hospice and palliative care professional" means a person
11 who is employed by a hospice program and is a physician,
12 licensed advanced practice registered nurse, licensed
13 registered nurse, licensed social worker, licensed clinical
14 social worker, or licensed practical nurse.

15 "Hospice program" means a public agency or private
16 organization, or subdivision of either, that is licensed by
17 the State as a comprehensive hospice program as defined in the
18 Hospice Program Licensing Act and is Medicare-certified.

19 "Loan Repayment Program" means the Community Hospice and
20 Palliative Care Professional Loan Repayment Program
21 established under this Act.

22 "Physician" means a person licensed by this State to
23 practice medicine in all its branches and includes any
24 physician holding a temporary license, as provided in the
25 Medical Practice Act of 1987.

1 Section 15. Community Hospice and Palliative Care
2 Professional Loan Repayment Program. The Commission shall
3 establish by January 1, 2025 the Community Hospice and
4 Palliative Care Professional Loan Repayment Program, which
5 shall be administered by the Commission. The Program shall
6 provide loan repayment assistance, subject to appropriation,
7 to eligible hospice and palliative professionals practicing in
8 a hospice program that provides services in the State.

9 Section 20. Applications. Each year, the Commission shall
10 receive and consider applications for loan repayment
11 assistance under this Act. All applications shall be submitted
12 to the Commission in a form and manner prescribed by the
13 Commission. Applicants shall submit any supporting documents
14 deemed necessary by the Commission at the time of application.

15 Section 25. Award; maximum loan time; maximum amount.
16 Subject to appropriation, the Commission shall award a grant
17 to each qualified applicant for a maximum of 4 years. The
18 Commission shall encourage the recipient of a grant awarded
19 under this Act to use the grant award for payments towards the
20 recipient's educational loans. The yearly appropriation for
21 the program may be divided as follows:

- 22 (1) 10% toward awards for physicians;
23 (2) 10% toward awards for licensed advanced practice

1 registered nurses;

2 (3) 42% toward awards for licensed registered nurses;

3 (4) 28% toward awards for licensed social workers and
4 licensed clinical social workers; and

5 (5) 10% toward awards for licensed practical nurses.

6 The award amount shall be based on a percentage of an
7 awardee's total outstanding loan balance. The maximum amount
8 of any award shall not exceed 15% of the awardee's total
9 outstanding loan balance for that award year. However, if
10 there are any funds not awarded, then the Commission may award
11 funds to qualified applicants beyond the division of award
12 amounts under this Section.

13 Section 30. Eligibility; work requirement.

14 (a) To be eligible for assistance under the Community
15 Hospice and Palliative Care Professional Loan Repayment
16 Program, the Commission shall find that the applicant
17 satisfies all of the following:

18 (1) The applicant is a United States citizen or an
19 eligible noncitizen.

20 (2) The applicant is a resident of this State.

21 (3) The applicant has worked for at least 12
22 consecutive months as a hospice and palliative care
23 professional in a hospice program in the State, and (i)
24 has worked at least 10 hours per week, if the applicant is
25 a physician, or (ii) has worked at least 32 hours per week,

1 if the applicant is not a physician.

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

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

6 (b) The Commission may grant preference to a previous
7 recipient of a grant under the Program, provided that the
8 recipient continues to meet the eligibility requirements under
9 this Section.

10 (c) A recipient of a grant under the Program shall
11 complete a separate 12-month period working in a hospice
12 program in the State for each grant that the recipient is
13 awarded and shall, during that 12-month period, (i) work at
14 least 10 hours per week, if the applicant is a physician, or
15 (ii) work at least 32 hours per week, if the applicant is not a
16 physician.

17 Section 35. Award priority.

18 (a) If an appropriation for this program for a given
19 fiscal year is insufficient to provide grants to all qualified
20 applicants, the Commission shall allocate the appropriation in
21 accordance with this subsection. If funds are insufficient to
22 provide all qualified applicants with a grant as authorized by
23 this Section, the Commission shall allocate the available
24 grant funds for that fiscal year to qualified applicants who
25 submit a complete application on or before a date specified by

1 the Commission, based on the following order of priority:

2 (1) first, to new, qualified applicants who are
3 members of a racial minority as defined in subsection (b);
4 and

5 (2) second, to other new, qualified applicants in
6 accordance with this Act.

7 (b) The Commission shall give priority to those applicants
8 who are members of a racial minority. As used in this
9 subsection, "racial minority" means a person who is a citizen
10 of the United States or a lawful permanent resident alien of
11 the United States and who is:

12 (1) Black (a person having origins in any of the Black
13 racial groups in Africa);

14 (2) Hispanic (a person of Spanish or Portuguese
15 culture with origins in Mexico, South or Central America,
16 or the Caribbean Islands, regardless of race);

17 (3) Asian American (a person having origins in any of
18 the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the
19 Indian Subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands); or

20 (4) American Indian or Alaskan Native (a person having
21 origins in any of the original peoples of North America).

22 Section 40. Administration; rules. The Commission shall
23 administer the program and shall adopt rules not inconsistent
24 with this Act to implement and administer this Act.

1 Section 90. Inoperative. This Act is inoperative 10 years
2 after the effective date of this Act.

3 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
4 becoming law.