

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 5. The Loan Repayment Assistance for Dentists Act  
5 is amended by changing Sections 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30 as  
6 follows:

7 (110 ILCS 948/5)

8 Sec. 5. Purpose. The purpose of this Act is to establish a  
9 program in the Department of Public Health to increase the  
10 total number of dentists, ~~and~~ dental specialists, and dental  
11 hygienists practicing in designated shortage areas in this  
12 State by providing educational loan repayment assistance  
13 grants to dentists, ~~and~~ dental specialists, and dental  
14 hygienists.

15 (Source: P.A. 95-297, eff. 8-20-07.)

16 (110 ILCS 948/10)

17 Sec. 10. Definitions. In this Act, unless the context  
18 otherwise requires:

19 "Dental hygienist" means a person who holds a license under  
20 the Illinois Dental Practice Act to perform dental services as  
21 authorized by Section 18 of the Illinois Dental Practice Act.

22 "Dental payments" means compensation provided to dentists

1 and dental specialists for services rendered under Article V of  
2 the Illinois Public Aid Code, the Covering ALL KIDS Health  
3 Insurance Act, or the Children's Health Insurance Program Act.

4 "Dental specialist" means a person who has received a  
5 license as a dentist in this State and who is trained and  
6 qualified to practice in one or more of the following  
7 specialties of dentistry: endodontics, oral and maxillofacial  
8 surgery, orthodontics, pedodontics, periodontics, and  
9 prosthodontics.

10 "Dentist" means a person who has received a general license  
11 pursuant to paragraph (a) of Section 11 of the Illinois Dental  
12 Practice Act, who may perform any intraoral and extraoral  
13 procedure required in the practice of dentistry, and to whom is  
14 reserved the responsibilities specified in Section 17 of the  
15 Illinois Dental Practice Act.

16 "Department" means the Department of Public Health.

17 "Designated shortage area" means a medically underserved  
18 area or health manpower shortage area as defined by the United  
19 States Department of Health and Human Services or as otherwise  
20 designated by the Department of Public Health.

21 "Educational loans" means higher education student loans  
22 that a person has incurred in attending a registered  
23 professional dental education program ~~in this State.~~

24 "Program" means the educational loan repayment assistance  
25 program for dentists and dental specialists or dental  
26 hygienists established by the Department under this Act.

1 (Source: P.A. 95-297, eff. 8-20-07.)

2 (110 ILCS 948/15)

3 Sec. 15. Establishment of program. The Department shall  
4 establish an educational loan repayment assistance program for  
5 dentists and dental specialists who practice in designated  
6 shortage areas in this State and who accept certain dental  
7 payments as defined under this Act. In addition, the Department  
8 shall establish an educational loan repayment assistance  
9 program for dental hygienists who practice with a dentist in a  
10 designated shortage area in this State. The Department shall  
11 administer the program and make all necessary and proper rules  
12 not inconsistent with this Act for the program's effective  
13 implementation. The Department may use up to 5% of the  
14 appropriation for this program for administration and  
15 promotion of dentist, ~~and~~ dental specialist, and dental  
16 hygienist incentive programs.

17 (Source: P.A. 95-297, eff. 8-20-07.)

18 (110 ILCS 948/20)

19 Sec. 20. Application. Beginning July 1, 2007, the  
20 Department shall, each year, consider 4 applications for  
21 assistance under the program. The form of application and the  
22 information required to be set forth in the application shall  
23 be determined by the Department, and the Department shall  
24 require applicants to submit with their applications such

1 supporting documents as the Department deems necessary.

2 (Source: P.A. 95-297, eff. 8-20-07.)

3 (110 ILCS 948/25)

4 Sec. 25. Eligibility. To be eligible for assistance under  
5 the program, an applicant must meet all of the following  
6 qualifications:

7 (1) He or she must be a citizen or permanent resident  
8 of the United States.

9 (2) He or she must be a resident of this State.

10 (3) He or she must be practicing full time in this  
11 State as a dentist, ~~or~~ dental specialist, or dental  
12 hygienist.

13 (4) He or she must currently be repaying educational  
14 loans.

15 (5) He or she must accept dental payments as defined in  
16 this Act.

17 (6) He or she must ~~continue full time~~ practice or  
18 commit to practice full time in this State in a designated  
19 shortage area ~~for 2 years~~.

20 (7) He or she must allocate at least 20% of all patient  
21 appointments to patients covered by Article V of the  
22 Illinois Public Aid Code, the Covering ALL KIDS Health  
23 Insurance Act, or the Children's Health Insurance Program  
24 Act.

25 (Source: P.A. 95-297, eff. 8-20-07.)

1 (110 ILCS 948/30)

2 Sec. 30. The award of grants.

3 (a) Under the program, for each year that a qualified  
4 applicant practices full time in this State in a designated  
5 shortage area as a dentist or dental specialist, the Department  
6 shall, subject to appropriation, award a grant to that person  
7 in an amount equal to the amount in educational loans that the  
8 person must repay that year. However, the total amount in  
9 grants that a person may be awarded under the program must not  
10 exceed \$25,000 per year for a 4-year period.

11 The grant award for a dental hygienist shall be set by rule  
12 of the Department.

13 (b) The Department shall require recipients to use the  
14 grants to pay off their educational loans.

15 (c) The initial grant awarded to a dentist or dental  
16 specialist under this Act shall be for a 2-year period. Based  
17 on the successful completion of the initial 2-year grant, the  
18 grantees may be awarded up to 2 subsequent one-year grants.  
19 Grantees are eligible to receive grant funds for no more than a  
20 4-year period. Previous grant recipients shall be given  
21 priority for years 3 and 4 grant funding, provided that the  
22 grantee continues to meet the eligibility requirements set  
23 forth in Section 25 of this Act. Grantees shall practice full  
24 time in a designated shortage area for the period of each grant  
25 awarded.

1       The grant award for a dental hygienist shall be for a  
2 maximum of 2 years.

3       (d) Successful applicants shall be eligible for a grant  
4 award upon execution of the grant agreement and shall then  
5 begin to receive grant award payments on a quarterly basis.

6       (e) The Department shall award grants to otherwise eligible  
7 dental applicants by using the following criteria:

8           (1) Dental specialist willing to practice in any  
9 designated shortage area.

10          (2) Dentist willing to practice in a designated  
11 shortage area with the highest Health Professional  
12 Shortage Area (HPSA) score.

13          (3) Dentist willing to practice in a designated  
14 shortage area with the highest HPSA score and agreeing to  
15 allocate the highest percentage of patient appointments to  
16 those that are covered by Article V of the Illinois Public  
17 Aid Code, the Covering ALL KIDS Health Insurance Act, or  
18 the Children's Health Insurance Program Act.

19       (Source: P.A. 95-297, eff. 8-20-07.)

20       Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
21 becoming law.