



General Assembly

February Session, 2008

Raised Bill No. 246

LCO No. 1513

* SB00246PH_APP030708 *

Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:
(PH)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM FOR HISTORICALLY UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENTS PURSUING CAREERS IN NURSING.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) (a) On or before July 1, 2009,
2 the Commissioner of Public Health, in consultation with the Board of
3 Governors of Higher Education, shall establish a program for the
4 forgiveness of loans provided by the state to students of racial or
5 ethnic minority groups who are pursuing a degree leading to licensure
6 as a registered nurse. The loans shall be completely forgiven if the
7 student practices as a registered nurse in Connecticut for five years.
8 Participants in the program shall have loans that qualify for
9 forgiveness under the program forgiven based upon the following
10 schedule: (1) Ten per cent forgiveness of the total amount borrowed
11 and qualified for under the program upon the completion of one year's
12 service pursuant to the program; (2) twenty-five per cent forgiveness
13 of the total amount borrowed and qualified for under the program
14 upon the completion of two years' service pursuant to the program; (3)
15 forty-five per cent forgiveness of the total amount borrowed and
16 qualified for under the program upon the completion of three years'

17 service pursuant to the program; (4) seventy per cent forgiveness of the
18 total amount borrowed and qualified for under the program upon the
19 completion of four years' service pursuant to the program; and (5) one
20 hundred per cent forgiveness of the total amount borrowed and
21 qualified for under the program upon the completion of five years'
22 service pursuant to the program. Annually, the Department of Public
23 Health shall permit not more than fifteen students to participate in the
24 program. Not later than July 1, 2009, the Commissioner of Public
25 Health, in consultation with the Board of Governors of Higher
26 Education, shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions
27 of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to establish procedures to
28 administer the program.

29 (b) The Department of Public Health, in consultation with the
30 Department of Higher Education, shall advertise the loan forgiveness
31 program established under this section in such manner as the
32 Department of Public Health determines will most effectively attract a
33 greater number of racial and ethnic minorities to pursue a degree
34 leading to licensure as a registered nurse.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section

PH

Joint Favorable C/R

APP