

Introduced by

Senators Mathern, Dever

Representatives Conmy, Rohr, Schauer

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 43-12.3-06 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
2 relating to the student loan repayment program; to provide an appropriation to the department  
3 of health and human services for the behavioral health loan repayment program; and to declare  
4 an emergency.

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

6 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-12.3-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
7 amended and reenacted as follows:

8 **43-12.3-06. Student loan repayment program - Contract.**

9 1. The health council shall enter a contract with a selected health care professional. The  
10 health council shall agree to provide student loan repayments on behalf of the  
11 selected health care professional subject to the requirements and limitations of this  
12 section.

13 a. For a physician:

14 (1) The loan repayment may not exceed twenty thousand dollars per year, and  
15 may not exceed one hundred thousand dollars over five years; and

16 (2) The matching funds must equal fifty percent of the amount required in  
17 paragraph 1.

18 b. For a clinical psychologist or a psychiatric registered nurse:

19 (1) The loan repayment may not exceed twelve thousand dollars per year, and  
20 may not exceed sixty thousand dollars over five years; and

21 (2) The matching funds must equal twenty-five percent of the amount required  
22 in paragraph 1.

23 c. For an advanced practice registered nurse or a physician assistant:

- 1           (1) The loan repayment may not exceed four thousand dollars per year, and  
2           may not exceed twenty thousand dollars over five years; and  
3           (2) The matching funds must equal ten percent of the amount required in  
4           paragraph 1.
- 5           d. For a behavioral health professional:
- 6           (1) The loan repayment may not exceed four thousand dollars per year, and  
7           may not exceed twenty thousand dollars over five years; and  
8           (2) The matching funds must equal ten percent of the amount required in  
9           paragraph 1.
- 10          e. For purposes of this section, a behavioral health professional means an  
11          individual who practices in the behavioral health field and is:
- 12          (1) A licensed addiction counselor;  
13          (2) A licensed professional counselor;  
14          (3) A licensed social worker;  
15          (4) A registered nurse;  
16          (5) A specialty practice registered nurse; or  
17          (6) A licensed behavior analyst.
- 18          2. a. Payments under this section must be made on behalf of the health care  
19          professional directly to the Bank of North Dakota or to another participating  
20          lending institution.
- 21          b. Except as otherwise provided, payments under this section may be made only at  
22          the conclusion of each twelve month period of service.
- 23          c. Prorated payments may be made only if:
- 24          (1) The repayment of the loan requires less than a full annual payment;  
25          (2) The health care professional is terminated or resigns from his or her  
26          position; or  
27          (3) The health care professional is unable to complete a twelve-month period of  
28          service due to the individual's death, a certifiable medical condition or  
29          disability, or a call to military service.
- 30          3. Payments under this section terminate upon the earlier of:
- 31          a. The full repayment of the health care professional's student loan; or

