
SENATE BILL 5950

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Senators Randall, Lovelett, and O'Ban

1 AN ACT Relating to creating the social work professional loan
2 repayment program; reenacting and amending RCW 43.79A.040; and adding
3 a new chapter to Title 28B RCW.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** It is the intent of the legislature to
6 incentivize social workers to enter into and continue in state
7 service. Annual turnover is over twenty percent statewide for child
8 welfare workers and over thirty percent in some regions. Repeated
9 turnover has direct costs and indirect costs such as low morale,
10 increased workloads, and the impact of relative inexperience on
11 outcomes of safety, permanence and well-being. Consistent social
12 worker assistance to families creates better outcomes and increases
13 family reunification. The cost of achieving their professional
14 credential requirements can result in a social worker having an
15 educational debt burden greater than their annual salary. Over eighty
16 percent of social workers have student debt and the pressure to pay
17 this debt while caring for at-risk children in crisis can be a major
18 barrier to retaining social workers. In addition, educational debt
19 has been identified as a deterrent to students entering into public
20 service careers.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Unless the context clearly requires
2 otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this
3 chapter.

4 (1) "Eligible expenses" means reasonable expenses associated with
5 the costs of acquiring an education such as tuition, books,
6 equipment, fees, room and board, and other expenses determined by the
7 office.

8 (2) "Forgiven," "to forgive," or "forgiveness" means to render
9 social work services as a state of Washington employee.

10 (3) "Loan repayment" means a loan that is paid in full or in part
11 if the participant renders social work services on behalf of the
12 state of Washington.

13 (4) "Office" means the office of student financial assistance.

14 (5) "Participant" means a credentialed social work professional
15 who has received a loan repayment award and commenced practice as a
16 credentialed social worker.

17 (6) "Program" means the social work professional loan repayment
18 program.

19 (7) "Required service obligation" means an obligation by the
20 participant to provide social work services on behalf of the state of
21 Washington department of social and health services children's
22 administration or the state of Washington department of children,
23 youth, and families for a period to be established as provided for in
24 this chapter.

25 (8) "Satisfied" means paid in full.

26 (9) "Social worker" means a person who is licensed under RCW
27 18.225.090(1)(a) or qualified under chapter 18.320 RCW.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The social work professional loan
29 repayment program is established for social work professionals. The
30 program shall be administered by the office. In administering this
31 program, the office shall:

32 (1) Verify credentialed social work professionals who are
33 eligible to participate in the program;

34 (2) Adopt rules and develop guidelines to administer the program;

35 (3) Coordinate with the office of financial management state
36 human resources division, professional associations, and the student
37 achievement council to publicize the program, particularly to
38 maximize participation among individuals in shortage areas and among

1 populations expected to experience the greatest growth in the
2 workforce; and

3 (4) Accept grants and donations from public and private sources
4 for the program.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) Social workers employed by the
6 department of social and health services children's administration or
7 department of children, youth, and families are eligible to
8 participate in the program two years after commencing their
9 employment as a social worker for either agency.

10 (2) Each participant is eligible for:

11 (a) Quarterly or more frequent payments, as determined by the
12 office, subject to the best use of the funds and continued
13 eligibility for the program; and

14 (b) A maximum lifetime award of fifty thousand dollars, for up to
15 a maximum of ten consecutive years, until the loan is repaid.

16 (3) Repayment of loans under this program shall begin no later
17 than ninety days after the individual has become a participant.
18 Payments shall be made quarterly, or more frequently if deemed
19 appropriate by the office, to the participant until:

20 (a) The loan is repaid;

21 (b) The participant becomes ineligible due to discontinued
22 service as a social worker on behalf of the department of social and
23 health services children's administration or department of children,
24 youth, and families; or

25 (c) The award limits specified in subsection (2) of this section
26 are reached.

27 (4) The payments in subsection (3) of this section will be for
28 the full amount of the loans paid by the participant during the prior
29 period.

30 (5) Should the participant discontinue service in a social work
31 profession, payments against the participant's loans shall cease to
32 be effective on the date the participant discontinues service.

33 (6) The office shall not be held responsible for any outstanding
34 payments on principal or interest to any lenders once a participant's
35 eligibility expires.

36 (7) Loans from federal government sources may be repaid by the
37 program.

1 (8) Participants shall allow the office access to loan records
2 and to acquire information from lenders necessary to verify
3 eligibility and to determine payments.

4 (9) Loans may not be renegotiated with lenders to accelerate
5 repayment.

6 (10) The office shall establish an appeal process by rule.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The office may grant loan repayment to
8 eligible participants from the funds appropriated for this purpose or
9 from any private or public funds given to the office for this
10 purpose. Funds appropriated for the program, including reasonable
11 administrative costs, may be used by the office for the purposes of
12 loan repayments.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The social work professional loan
14 repayment program fund is created in custody of the state treasurer.
15 Any funds appropriated by the legislature for the social work
16 professional loan repayment program or any other public or private
17 funds intended for loan repayments under this program shall be placed
18 in the program fund created by this section. All receipts from the
19 program shall be deposited into the program fund. Only the office, or
20 its designee, may authorize expenditures from the program fund. The
21 program fund is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88
22 RCW, but no appropriation is required for expenditures.

23 **Sec. 7.** RCW 43.79A.040 and 2018 c 260 s 28, 2018 c 258 s 4, and
24 2018 c 127 s 6 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

25 (1) Money in the treasurer's trust fund may be deposited,
26 invested, and reinvested by the state treasurer in accordance with
27 RCW 43.84.080 in the same manner and to the same extent as if the
28 money were in the state treasury, and may be commingled with moneys
29 in the state treasury for cash management and cash balance purposes.

30 (2) All income received from investment of the treasurer's trust
31 fund must be set aside in an account in the treasury trust fund to be
32 known as the investment income account.

33 (3) The investment income account may be utilized for the payment
34 of purchased banking services on behalf of treasurer's trust funds
35 including, but not limited to, depository, safekeeping, and
36 disbursement functions for the state treasurer or affected state
37 agencies. The investment income account is subject in all respects to

1 chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required for payments to
2 financial institutions. Payments must occur prior to distribution of
3 earnings set forth in subsection (4) of this section.

4 (4)(a) Monthly, the state treasurer must distribute the earnings
5 credited to the investment income account to the state general fund
6 except under (b), (c), and (d) of this subsection.

7 (b) The following accounts and funds must receive their
8 proportionate share of earnings based upon each account's or fund's
9 average daily balance for the period: The 24/7 sobriety account, the
10 Washington promise scholarship account, the Gina Grant Bull memorial
11 legislative page scholarship account, the Washington advanced college
12 tuition payment program account, the Washington college savings
13 program account, the social work professional loan repayment program
14 fund, the accessible communities account, the Washington achieving a
15 better life experience program account, the community and technical
16 college innovation account, the agricultural local fund, the American
17 Indian scholarship endowment fund, the foster care scholarship
18 endowment fund, the foster care endowed scholarship trust fund, the
19 contract harvesting revolving account, the Washington state combined
20 fund drive account, the commemorative works account, the county
21 enhanced 911 excise tax account, the toll collection account, the
22 developmental disabilities endowment trust fund, the energy account,
23 the fair fund, the family and medical leave insurance account, the
24 fish and wildlife federal lands revolving account, the natural
25 resources federal lands revolving account, the food animal
26 veterinarian conditional scholarship account, the forest health
27 revolving account, the fruit and vegetable inspection account, the
28 future teachers conditional scholarship account, the game farm
29 alternative account, the GET ready for math and science scholarship
30 account, the Washington global health technologies and product
31 development account, the grain inspection revolving fund, the
32 Washington history day account, the industrial insurance rainy day
33 fund, the juvenile accountability incentive account, the law
34 enforcement officers' and firefighters' plan 2 expense fund, the
35 local tourism promotion account, the low-income home rehabilitation
36 revolving loan program account, the multiagency permitting team
37 account, the northeast Washington wolf-livestock management account,
38 the pilotage account, the produce railcar pool account, the regional
39 transportation investment district account, the rural rehabilitation
40 account, the Washington sexual assault kit account, the stadium and

1 exhibition center account, the youth athletic facility account, the
2 self-insurance revolving fund, the children's trust fund, the
3 Washington horse racing commission Washington bred owners' bonus fund
4 and breeder awards account, the Washington horse racing commission
5 class C purse fund account, the individual development account
6 program account, the Washington horse racing commission operating
7 account, the life sciences discovery fund, the Washington state
8 heritage center account, the reduced cigarette ignition propensity
9 account, the center for childhood deafness and hearing loss account,
10 the school for the blind account, the Millersylvania park trust fund,
11 the public employees' and retirees' insurance reserve fund, the
12 school employees' benefits board insurance reserve fund, (~~(the)~~)
13 the public employees' and retirees' insurance account, (~~(the)~~) the
14 school employees' insurance account, and the radiation perpetual
15 maintenance fund.

16 (c) The following accounts and funds must receive eighty percent
17 of their proportionate share of earnings based upon each account's or
18 fund's average daily balance for the period: The advanced right-of-
19 way revolving fund, the advanced environmental mitigation revolving
20 account, the federal narcotics asset forfeitures account, the high
21 occupancy vehicle account, the local rail service assistance account,
22 and the miscellaneous transportation programs account.

23 (d) Any state agency that has independent authority over accounts
24 or funds not statutorily required to be held in the custody of the
25 state treasurer that deposits funds into a fund or account in the
26 custody of the state treasurer pursuant to an agreement with the
27 office of the state treasurer shall receive its proportionate share
28 of earnings based upon each account's or fund's average daily balance
29 for the period.

30 (5) In conformance with Article II, section 37 of the state
31 Constitution, no trust accounts or funds shall be allocated earnings
32 without the specific affirmative directive of this section.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Sections 1 through 6 of this act
34 constitute a new chapter in Title 28B RCW.

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