

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE AMENDMENT
TO
2 ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 310 By: Paddack of the Senate
3 and
4 Cox of the House
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7 (schools - Oklahoma Health Care Workers and
8 Educators Assistance Program - effective date -
9 emergency)

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AMENDMENT NO. 1. Strike the stricken title, enacting clause and entire bill and insert

"An Act relating to schools; amending Section 5, Chapter 387, O.S.L. 2008 (70 O.S. Supp. 2008, Section 2640), which relates to the Oklahoma Health Care Workers and Educators Assistance Program; making award of scholarships contingent on availability of funds; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 5, Chapter 387, O.S.L. 2008 (70 O.S. Supp. 2008, Section 2640), is amended to read as follows:

1 Section 2640. A. There is hereby established the Oklahoma
2 Health Care Workers and Educators Assistance Program. The purpose
3 of the program shall be to encourage persons to enter nursing and
4 allied health careers within this state. Priority in awarding
5 assistance is intended to go toward those career fields in which
6 there is an urgent need for qualified employees to provide health
7 care services or in career fields in which a shortage of qualified
8 employees is projected to exist in the future.

9 B. Only students who are residents of this state shall be
10 eligible to participate in the Oklahoma Health Care Workers and
11 Educators Assistance Program.

12 C. Only students of accredited or recognized health care
13 programs or colleges and universities shall be eligible for awards
14 from the Oklahoma Health Care Workers and Educators Assistance
15 Program.

16 D. The Oklahoma Health Care Workers and Educators Assistance
17 Program shall be administered by the Health Care Workforce Resources
18 Board. The Board is authorized to enter into an agreement with the
19 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for fiscal services as
20 may be necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

21 E. The Health Care Workforce Resources Board shall implement
22 the provisions of this section in the most balanced, efficient, and
23 effective means necessary to meet the following priorities:
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1 1. Create additional nursing or allied health faculty by
2 providing scholarships to cover individuals' costs of gaining the
3 advanced degrees necessary to serve as faculty members in nursing
4 and allied health education programs;

5 2. Expand and modernize learning environments by providing
6 matching grants to nursing and allied health education institutions
7 to increase the number of clinical opportunities, and to better
8 utilize online and distance learning, simulations, and other
9 innovative methods to provide education and training; and

10 3. Attract more students in nursing and allied health careers
11 by providing scholarships to cover individuals' costs of gaining
12 degrees or certifications necessary to prepare them for nursing and
13 allied health occupations.

14 F. The Board shall make an annual public declaration of which
15 nursing and allied health care education fields have been identified
16 for priority funding due to either an urgent need for qualified
17 employees or due to a determination of a future shortage of
18 qualified employees.

19 G. ~~Implementation of the provisions of this section shall be~~
20 Scholarships established through the Oklahoma Health Care Workers
21 and Educators Assistance Program may be awarded contingent on funds
22 made available through the State Regents for Higher Education.

23 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2009.
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1 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
2 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby
3 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
4 be in full force from and after its passage and approval."

5 Passed the House of Representatives the 21st day of April, 2009.

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8 Presiding Officer of the House of
9 Representatives

10 Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 2009.

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13 Presiding Officer of the Senate

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