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H.472

Introduced by Representative Fagan of Rutland City
Referred to Committee on
Date:
Subject: Health; health care workforce; nursing scholarships
Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create the Vermont Nursing Scholarship Program for nursing students who commit to working as a nurse in Vermont for at least one year for each year of scholarship awarded. The Program would replace an existing nursing loan and loan repayment program. The bill would also appropriate \$1,000,000.00 in fiscal year 2023 for scholarships.

An act relating to establishing the Vermont Nursing Scholarship Program

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 34 is added to read:

§ 34. VERMONT NURSING SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

(a) The Vermont Nursing Scholarship Program is created and shall be administered by the Department of Health in collaboration with the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation. The Vermont Student Assistance Corporation shall disburse scholarship funds under the Program on behalf of eligible

1 individuals, subject to the appropriation of funds by the General Assembly for
2 this purpose.

3 (b) To be eligible for a scholarship under the Program, an individual,
4 whether a resident or nonresident, shall:

5 (1) be enrolled at an approved postsecondary education institution as
6 defined in 16 V.S.A. § 2822;

7 (2) demonstrate financial need;

8 (3) demonstrate academic capacity by carrying at least a 2.5 grade point
9 average in the individual's course of study prior to receiving the fund award;

10 and

11 (4) agree to work as a nurse in Vermont for a minimum of one year
12 following licensure for each year of scholarship awarded.

13 (c)(1) First priority for scholarship funds shall be given to students
14 pursuing a practical nursing certificate who will be eligible to sit for the
15 NCLEX-PN examination upon completion of the certificate.

16 (2) Second priority for scholarship funds shall be given to students
17 pursuing an associate's degree in nursing who will be eligible to sit for the
18 NCLEX-RN examination upon graduation.

19 (3) Third priority for scholarship funds shall be given to students
20 pursuing a bachelor of science degree in nursing.

1 (d) Students attending an approved postsecondary educational institution in
2 Vermont shall receive first preference for scholarships.

3 (e) There shall be no deadline to apply for a scholarship under this section.
4 Scholarships shall be awarded on a rolling basis as long as funds are available,
5 and any funds remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall roll over and shall be
6 available to the Department of Health and the Vermont Student Assistance
7 Corporation in the following fiscal year to award additional scholarships as set
8 forth in this section.

9 Sec. 2. REPEAL

10 18 V.S.A. § 31 (educational assistance; incentives; nurses) is repealed.

11 Sec. 3. APPROPRIATION

12 The sum of \$1,000,000.00 in Global Commitment investment funds is
13 appropriated to the Department of Health in fiscal year 2023 for scholarships
14 for nursing students under the Vermont Nursing Scholarship Program
15 established in Sec. 1 of this act.

16 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

17 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.