

[Second Reprint]

## ASSEMBLY, No. 4613

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

## 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 22, 2022

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman LOUIS D. GREENWALD**

**District 6 (Burlington and Camden)**

**Assemblywoman ELIANA PINTOR MARIN**

**District 29 (Essex)**

**Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY**

**District 27 (Essex and Morris)**

**Assemblyman HERB CONAWAY, JR.**

**District 7 (Burlington)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman Benson, Assemblywomen N.Munoz, Reynolds-Jackson,**

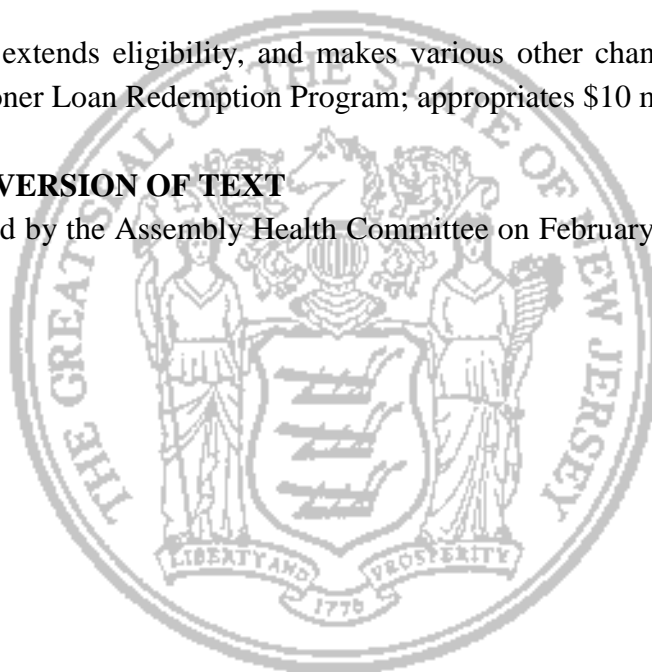
**Assemblyman Tully, Assemblywomen Lampitt and Lopez**

### SYNOPSIS

Renames, extends eligibility, and makes various other changes to Primary Care Practitioner Loan Redemption Program; appropriates \$10 million.

### CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Health Committee on February 13, 2023, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/25/2023)

1 AN ACT concerning the Primary Care Practitioner Loan Redemption  
2 Program, amending various sections of the New Jersey Statutes,  
3 supplementing chapter 71C of Title 18A of the New Jersey  
4 Statutes, and making an appropriation.

5  
6 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
7 *of New Jersey:*

8  
9 1. N.J.S.18A:71C-32 is amended to read as follows:

10 18A:71C-32. "Approved site" means a site located within a State  
11 designated underserved area or a health professional shortage area,  
12 or a clinic which is part of the extramural network of dental clinics  
13 established by the New Jersey Dental School of Rutgers, The State  
14 University, or a site that has been determined by the Higher  
15 Education Student Assistance Authority, in consultation with the  
16 Department of Health **and Senior Services**, to serve medically  
17 underserved populations according to criteria determined by the  
18 authority <sup>2</sup>**including, but not limited to, the percentage of**  
19 **medically underserved patients served** in accordance with section  
20 17 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this  
21 bill)<sup>2</sup>.

22 "Authority" means the Higher Education Student Assistance  
23 Authority.

24 "Eligible qualifying loan expenses" means the cumulative  
25 outstanding balance of student loans covering the cost of attendance  
26 at an undergraduate institution of medical, dental, or other primary  
27 care professional education at the time an applicant is selected for  
28 the program. Interest paid or due on qualifying loans that an  
29 applicant has taken out for use in paying the costs of undergraduate  
30 medical, dental, or other primary care professional education shall  
31 be considered eligible for reimbursement under the program. The  
32 <sup>2</sup>**authority may establish a limit on the**<sup>2</sup> total amount of  
33 qualifying loans which may be redeemed for participants under the  
34 program <sup>2</sup>**including, provided that the total redemption of qualifying loans**  
35 **does not exceed \$120,000, or \$100,000 for participants employed at**  
36 **a place of employment other than an approved site**<sup>2</sup> shall be  
37 \$180,000 for participants employed at an approved site<sup>2</sup>, or the  
38 maximum amount authorized by the federal government, whichever  
39 is greater, either in State funds or the sum of federal, State, and  
40 other non-federal matching funds, pursuant to section 338I of the  
41 Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.s.254q-1), whichever is  
42 applicable.

43 "Executive director" means the executive director of the Higher  
44 Education Student Assistance Authority.

45 "Health professional shortage area" (HPSA) means an urban or  
46 rural area, a population group or a public or non-profit private

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **thus** in the above bill is  
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Assembly AHI committee amendments adopted December 12, 2022.

<sup>2</sup>Assembly AHE committee amendments adopted February 13, 2023.

1 medical or dental facility or other public facility which the  
2 Secretary of Health and Human Services determines has a health  
3 professional shortage pursuant to section 332 of the Public Health  
4 Service Act (42 U.S.C. s.254e).

5 "Primary care" means the practice of family medicine, general  
6 internal medicine, general pediatrics, general obstetrics,  
7 gynecology, pediatric dentistry, general dentistry, public health  
8 dentistry, and any other areas of medicine or dentistry which the  
9 Commissioner of Health **and Senior Services** may define as  
10 primary care. Primary care also includes the practice of a nurse-  
11 practitioner, certified nurse-midwife, and physician assistant.

12 "Primary care practitioner" means a State-licensed or certified  
13 health care professional who has obtained a degree in allopathic or  
14 osteopathic medicine, dentistry, or another primary care profession  
15 at an undergraduate institution of medical, dental, or other primary  
16 care professional education, as applicable.

17 "Program" means the **Primary Care Practitioner** Health Care  
18 Professional Loan Redemption Program established pursuant to  
19 N.J.S.18A:71C-33.

20 "Program participant" means a **primary care** practitioner who  
21 contracts with the authority to engage in the clinical practice of  
22 primary care, psychiatry or other qualifying health care field **at an**  
23 **approved site** <sup>2</sup>at an approved site<sup>2</sup> in exchange for the redemption  
24 of eligible qualifying loan expenses provided under the program.

25 "Qualifying loan" means a government or commercial loan for  
26 the actual costs paid for tuition and reasonable education and living  
27 expenses relating to the obtaining of a degree in allopathic or  
28 osteopathic medicine, dentistry, or another primary care profession.

29 "State designated underserved area" means a geographic area in  
30 this State which has been ranked by the Commissioner of Health  
31 **and Senior Services** on the basis of health status and economic  
32 indicators as reflecting a medical or dental health professional  
33 shortage <sup>2</sup>, in consultation with the Commissioner of Human Services,  
34 or a municipality which has more than 50 percent of its households at  
35 or below 185 percent of the federal poverty level<sup>2</sup>.

36 "Total and permanent disability" means a physical or mental  
37 disability that is expected to continue indefinitely or result in death  
38 and renders a participant in the program unable to perform that  
39 person's service obligation, as determined by the executive director  
40 or <sup>2</sup>**his** a<sup>2</sup> designee.

41 "Undergraduate medical, dental, or other primary care  
42 professional education" means the period of time between entry into  
43 medical school, dental school, or other primary care or medical  
44 professional training program and the award of a degree in  
45 allopathic or osteopathic medicine, dentistry, or another primary  
46 care profession, respectively.

47 (cf: P.L.2012, c.45, s.99)

1        2. N.J.S.18A:71C-33 is amended to read as follows:

2        18A:71C-33. There is established a **【Primary Care Practitioner】**  
3 Health Care Professional Loan Redemption Program within the  
4 Higher Education Student Assistance Authority. The program shall  
5 provide for the redemption of a portion of the eligible qualifying  
6 loan expenses of program participants for each year of service **【at**  
7 **an approved site】** <sup>2</sup>at an approved site<sup>2</sup>.  
8 (cf: P.L.2009, c.145, s.2)

9

10       3. N.J.S.18A:71C-34 is amended to read as follows:

11       18A:71C-34. To be eligible to participate in the program, an  
12 applicant shall:

13       a. be a resident of the State;

14       b. be a primary care practitioner , psychiatrist, or other health  
15 care professional designated by the Commissioner of Health  
16 pursuant to section 16 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
17 Legislature as this bill) for inclusion in the program; and

18       c. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2009, c.145.)

19       d. agree to practice primary care, psychiatry, or other  
20 qualifying medical care, as appropriate, **【at an approved site】** <sup>2</sup>at an  
21 approved site<sup>2</sup> under the terms and conditions provided in  
22 N.J.S.18A:71C-36 and the agreement issued thereunder.  
23 (cf: P.L.2009, c.145, s.3)

24

25       4. N.J.S.18A:71C-35 is amended to read as follows:

26       18A:71C-35. The Commissioner of Health **【and Senior**  
27 **Services】**, after consultation with the <sup>2</sup>**【Commissioner of**  
28 **Corrections and the】**<sup>2</sup> Commissioner of Human Services, shall  
29 designate and establish a ranking of State designated underserved  
30 areas <sup>2</sup>, including both professional shortage areas and medically  
31 underserved areas<sup>2</sup>. The criteria used by the Commissioner of Health  
32 **【and Senior Services】** in designating areas shall include, but not be  
33 limited to:

34       a. the financial resources of the population under  
35 consideration, including the percentage of the population that is  
36 eligible for medical assistance pursuant to P.L.1968, c.413  
37 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.) and P.L.2005, c.156 (C.30:4J-8 et seq.), and the  
38 percentage of the population that does not have health insurance  
39 coverage;

40       b. the population's access to primary care , psychiatry, and  
41 other medical services;

42       c. appropriate physician, dentist, psychiatry, or other primary  
43 care staffing in State, county, municipal and private nonprofit  
44 health care facilities and in clinics which are part of the extramural  
45 network of dental clinics established by the New Jersey Dental  
46 School of Rutgers, The State University; and

47       d. the extent to which racial and ethnic disparities in health  
48 care in a geographic area, including, but not limited to, disparities

1 in the incidence of cancer, cardiovascular disease, stroke, chemical  
2 dependency, diabetes, asthma, homicide, suicide, accidental injury,  
3 infant mortality, child immunization rates, HIV/AIDS, dental caries,  
4 and periodontal disease, indicate the need to increase access to  
5 **【primary】 health** care services among racial and ethnic minority  
6 populations in that area.

7 <sup>2</sup>A municipality which has more than 50 percent of its  
8 households at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty level  
9 shall automatically be deemed a State designated underserved area  
10 without action by the Commissioner of Health.<sup>2</sup>

11 The Commissioner of Health **【and Senior Services】** shall  
12 transmit the list of State designated underserved areas and the  
13 number of positions needed in each area to the executive director or  
14 designee <sup>2</sup>by January 1 of each year<sup>2</sup>.

15 (cf: P.L.2012, c.45, s.100)

16  
17 5. N.J.S.18A:71C-36 is amended to read as follows:

18 18A:71C-36. a. In administering the program, the authority or  
19 its designated agent shall contract only with a primary care  
20 practitioner, psychiatrist, or other health care practitioner employed  
21 in a field designated by the Commissioner of Health for inclusion in  
22 the program pursuant to section 16 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending  
23 before the Legislature as this bill).

24 b. The contract for a program participant employed at an  
25 approved site shall require a program participant to:

26 (1) serve at least an initial two-year period at an approved site in  
27 the full-time clinical practice of that person's **【primary care】**  
28 profession;

29 (2) charge for professional services at the usual and customary  
30 rate prevailing in the area in which the approved site is located, but  
31 allow a patient who is unable to pay that charge to pay at a reduced  
32 rate or receive care at no charge;

33 (3) not discriminate against any patient in the provision of  
34 health care services on the basis of that person's ability to pay or  
35 source of payment; and

36 (4) agree not to impose any charge in excess of the limiting fee  
37 for a service, as determined by the United States Secretary of  
38 Health and Human Services, to a recipient of benefits under the  
39 federal Medicare program established pursuant to Pub.L.89-97 (42  
40 U.S.C.s.1395 et seq.).

41 c. The contract for any program participant shall also specify  
42 the applicant's dates of required service and the total amount of  
43 eligible qualifying loan expenses to be redeemed by the State in  
44 return for service, and stipulate that the applicant has knowledge of  
45 and agrees to the six-month probationary period required prior to  
46 final acceptance into the program pursuant to N.J.S.18A:71C-38.

47 <sup>2</sup>【d. The contract for a program participant employed at a site  
48 other than an approved site shall require a program participant to:

(1) serve at least an initial two-year period in the full-time clinical practice of that person's profession; and

(2) include such other provisions as the Commissioner of Health may determine.<sup>2</sup>

(cf: P.L.2009, c.145, s.5)

6. Section 10 of P.L.2009, c.145 (C.18A:71C-36.1) is amended to read as follows:

10. a. A program participant, as a condition of participation, shall be required to adhere to performance standards established by the executive director or <sup>2</sup>~~his~~ <sup>a</sup>designee and if the ~~approved site is~~ program participant is employed at a clinic which is part of the extramural network of dental clinics established by the New Jersey Dental School of Rutgers, The State University the program participant shall also meet performance standards set by the New Jersey Dental School.

b. The standards shall include, but not be limited to, requirements that a participant:

(1) maintain residency in the State;

(2) maintain a license or certification to practice a primary care profession, psychiatry, or other qualifying health care profession in the State;

(3) remain current with payments on student loans;

(4) enter into a mutually acceptable contract with an approved site <sup>2</sup>~~or employer, as applicable~~<sup>2</sup>;

(5) maintain satisfactory performance of services rendered ~~at an approved site~~; and

(6) report to the authority or its designee, on a form and in a manner prescribed by the authority or its designee, on the program participant's performance of services rendered ~~at an approved site~~ prior to repayment of the annual amount eligible for redemption.

(cf: P.L.2012, c.45, s.101)

7. N.J.S.18A:71C-37 is amended to read as follows:

18A:71C-37. a. Maximum redemption of loans under the loan redemption program shall amount to 18 ~~percent~~ <sup>2</sup>~~percent~~ of principal and interest of eligible qualifying loan expenses in return for one full year of service ~~at an approved site~~ <sup>2</sup>~~at an approved site~~<sup>2</sup>, an additional 26 ~~percent~~ <sup>2</sup>~~percent~~ for a second full year of service, an additional 28 ~~percent~~ <sup>2</sup>~~percent~~ for a third full year of service and an additional 28 ~~percent~~ <sup>2</sup>~~percent~~ for a fourth full year of service for a total redemption of eligible qualifying loan expenses of up to, but not to exceed, <sup>2</sup>~~[\$120,000]~~ <sup>2</sup>~~\$180,000~~<sup>2</sup> for service at an approved site <sup>2</sup>~~and \$100,000 for service at an employer other than an approved site~~<sup>2</sup>, or the maximum amount authorized by the federal government, whichever is greater, either (1) in State funds or (2) the sum of federal, State, and other non-federal funds pursuant to

1 section 338I of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.s.254q-1),  
2 whichever is applicable. No amount of eligible qualifying loan  
3 expenses shall be redeemed for services performed for less than a  
4 full year.

5 b. A participant who enters an agreement to fulfill service in a  
6 State designated underserved area that is also a HPSA shall be  
7 permitted a total redemption of eligible qualifying loan expenses for  
8 four years of service up to, but not to exceed, the sum of federal,  
9 State and other non-federal matching funds provided pursuant to  
10 section 338I of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.s.254q-1).

11 c. A program participant who enters an agreement to fulfill  
12 service in a State designated underserved area that is not also a  
13 HPSA shall be permitted a total redemption of eligible qualifying  
14 loan expenses for four years of service up to, but not to exceed,  
15 <sup>2</sup>[\$120,000] \$180,000<sup>2</sup>, or the maximum amount authorized by the  
16 federal government, whichever is greater, in State funds.

17 d. A program participant who has engaged in full-time clinical  
18 practice during the participant's initial two years of participation in  
19 the program shall be permitted to fulfill the program participant's  
20 subsequent service obligations on a part-time basis with the  
21 approval of the authority or its designee and the program  
22 participant's employer [in a State designated underserved area] <sup>2</sup>in  
23 a State designated underserved area<sup>2</sup>, with the program participant's  
24 redemption credit accruing on a pro rata basis. The program  
25 participant may be permitted a total redemption of eligible  
26 qualifying loan expenses for the equivalent of four years of full-  
27 time service.

28 (cf: P.L.2009, c.145, s.6)

29

30 8. N.J.S.18A:71C-38 is amended to read as follows:

31 18A:71C-38. Each program participant shall serve a six-month  
32 probationary period upon initial placement [at an approved site] <sup>2</sup>at  
33 an approved site<sup>2</sup>. During that period, the [primary care]  
34 supervisory staff of the <sup>2</sup>[employer or]<sup>2</sup> approved site, or in the  
35 case of a clinic which is part of the extramural network of dental  
36 clinics established by the New Jersey Dental School of Rutgers, The  
37 State University, the director of the clinics and the vice-dean of the  
38 dental school, together with the program participant and the  
39 executive director or his designee, shall evaluate the suitability of  
40 the placement for the program participant. At the end of the  
41 probationary period, the [primary care] supervisory staff shall  
42 recommend the continuation of the program participant's present  
43 placement, a change in placement, or its determination that the  
44 program participant is an unsuitable candidate for the program. If  
45 the [primary care] supervisory staff of the <sup>2</sup>[employer or]<sup>2</sup>  
46 approved site recommends a change in placement, the executive  
47 director or a designee shall approve an alternate placement at an  
48 <sup>2</sup>[employer or]<sup>2</sup> approved site. If the [primary care] supervisory

1 staff determines that the program participant is not a suitable  
2 candidate for the program, the executive director or his designee  
3 shall take this recommendation into consideration in regard to the  
4 program participant's final acceptance into the program. No loan  
5 redemption payment shall be made during the six-month  
6 probationary period; however, a program participant shall receive  
7 credit for the six-month period in calculating the first year of  
8 required service under the loan redemption contract.

9 (cf: P.L.2012, c.45, s.102)

10  
11 9. N.J.S.18A:71C-39 is amended to read as follows:

12 18A:71C-39. The executive director or <sup>2</sup>[his] <sup>a</sup><sup>2</sup> designee, in  
13 consultation with the Commissioner of Health ~~and Senior~~  
14 ~~Services~~, shall <sup>2</sup>[match] assist<sup>2</sup> program <sup>2</sup>applicants ~~and~~<sup>2</sup>  
15 participants ~~to~~ <sup>2</sup>[interested in serving in State designated  
16 ~~underserved areas or HPSAs to such sites] in identifying an~~  
17 approved site. A program applicant or participant may identify a  
18 proposed site for designation as an approved site, provided that the site  
19 meets the criteria established pursuant to section 17 of P.L. , c.  
20 (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill). Nothing in this act  
21 shall prohibit a program applicant or participant from identifying an  
22 approved site for designation and approval under the program<sup>2</sup>.

23 (cf: P.L.2009, c.145, s.8)

24  
25 10. N.J.S.18A:71C-40 is amended to read as follows:

26 18A:71C-40. The executive director or <sup>2</sup>[his] <sup>a</sup><sup>2</sup> designee shall  
27 select the program participants from among those applicants who  
28 meet the eligibility criteria established pursuant to N.J.S.18A:71C-  
29 34, subject to available funds and available approved sites , as  
30 applicable. <sup>2</sup>[No less than 40 percent of available funds in each  
31 program year shall be reserved for program participants serving at  
32 an approved site.]<sup>2</sup> In the event that there are insufficient funds or  
33 approved sites to select all of the applicants who meet the eligibility  
34 criteria, the executive director or <sup>2</sup>[his] <sup>a</sup><sup>2</sup> designee shall accord  
35 priority to applicants in the following manner:

36 a. first, to any applicant who <sup>2</sup>[is completing a fourth, third or  
37 second year of a loan redemption contract] has an offer of  
38 employment at an approved site<sup>2</sup>;

39 b. second, to any applicant according to the severity of the  
40 ~~physician, dentist, or other primary care~~ health care provider  
41 shortage in the area selected by the applicant; <sup>2</sup>[and]<sup>2</sup>

42 c. third, to any applicant whose residence in the State at <sup>2</sup>[the  
43 time of entry into postsecondary education] any time prior to  
44 initiating an application<sup>2</sup> was within a State designated underserved  
45 area <sup>2</sup>;

46 d. fourth, to any applicant whose approved site is a community-  
47 based ambulatory healthcare practice, which includes practices



1 operated by a private entity that provide comprehensive pediatric  
2 care, behavioral health care, preventative care, or primary care  
3 health services; and

4 e. fifth, to any applicant who graduated from a high school or  
5 institution of higher education in the State, or completed a medical  
6 residency in the State<sup>2</sup>.

7 In the event that there are more applicants who have the same  
8 priority than there are program positions, the executive director or  
9 <sup>2</sup>his a<sup>2</sup> designee shall select program participants by means of a  
10 lottery or other form of random selection.

11 (cf: P.L.2009, c.145, s.9)

12  
13 11. N.J.S.18A:71C-41 is amended to read as follows:

14 18A:71C-41. A program participant who has previously entered  
15 into a contract with the authority may nullify the agreement by  
16 notifying the authority in writing and reassuming full responsibility  
17 for the remaining outstanding balance of the loan debt. In no event  
18 shall service [at an approved site] for less than the full calendar  
19 year of each period of service entitle the program participant to any  
20 benefits under the program. A program participant seeking to  
21 nullify the contract before completing a second full year of service  
22 shall be required to pay 50 [%] percent of the redeemed portion of  
23 indebtedness in not more than one year following nullification of  
24 the agreement.

25 (cf: P.L.2009, c.145, s.11)

26  
27 12. N.J.S.18A:71C-44 is amended to read as follows:

28 18A:71C-44. A student who is participating in the federally  
29 administered National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment  
30 Program, section 338B of the Public Health Service Act (42  
31 U.S.C.s.254 l-1), shall not be eligible to participate simultaneously  
32 in the [Primary Care Practitioner] Health Care Professional Loan  
33 Redemption Program.

34 (cf: P.L.2009, c.145, s.15)

35  
36 13. Section 18 of P.L.2009, c.145 (C.18A:71C-46.1) is amended  
37 to read as follows:

38 18. The authority shall work with State institutions of medical,  
39 dental, and other [primary] health care professional education to  
40 ensure that information on the [Primary Care Practitioner] Health  
41 Care Professional Loan Redemption Program is made available to  
42 students upon enrollment.

43 (cf: P.L.2009, c.145, s.18)

44  
45 14. Section 9 of P.L.2009, c.236 (C.18A:71C-58) is amended to  
46 read as follows:

47 9. Of the funds annually appropriated for the [Primary Care  
48 Practitioner] Health Care Professional Loan Redemption Program

1 established in the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority  
2 pursuant to N.J.S.18A:71C-32 et seq., 25 **[%]** percent shall be  
3 dedicated to the Nursing Faculty Loan Redemption Program  
4 established pursuant to <sup>1</sup>**[this act]** section 4 of P.L.2009, c.236  
5 (C.18A:71C-53). Of the funds dedicated to the Nursing Faculty  
6 Loan Redemption Program, funds in excess of the amount  
7 necessary to satisfy qualifying applications pursuant to the Nursing  
8 Faculty Loan Redemption Program may be reallocated to the Health  
9 Care Professional Loan Redemption Program upon the  
10 recommendation of the Executive Director of the Higher Education  
11 Student Assistance Authority, subject to the approval of the  
12 Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting<sup>1</sup>. The program  
13 shall be administered directly by the Higher Education Student  
14 Assistance Authority.

15 (cf: P.L.2009, c.236, s.9)

16  
17 15. Section 7 of P.L.2017, c.126 (C.18A:71C-65) is amended to  
18 read as follows:

19 7. An individual who is participating in the **[Primary Care**  
20 **Practitioner]** Health Care Professional Loan Redemption Program,  
21 N.J.S.18A:71C-32 et seq., or in the federally administered National  
22 Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program, section 338B of  
23 the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. s.254l-1), shall not be  
24 eligible to participate simultaneously in the tuition reimbursement  
25 program <sup>1</sup>for psychiatrists<sup>1</sup> established pursuant to <sup>1</sup>**[this act]**  
26 section 2 of P.L.2017, c.126 (C.18A:71C-60)<sup>1</sup>.

27 (cf: P.L.2017, c.126, s.7)

28  
29 16. (New section) The Commissioner of Health, after  
30 consultation with the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce  
31 Development <sup>2</sup>and the Director of the Division of Consumer  
32 Affairs<sup>2</sup>, may designate additional health care fields experiencing  
33 critical Statewide labor shortages for inclusion in the program. Any  
34 additional health care field included in the program shall require a  
35 degree in allopathic <sup>1</sup>**[of]** or<sup>1</sup> osteopathic medicine.

36  
37 <sup>2</sup>17. (New section) a. To be eligible as an approved site, the  
38 site shall:

39 (1) be located within a State designated underserved area or a  
40 health professional shortage area, or be a clinic which is part of the  
41 extramural network of dental clinics established by the New Jersey  
42 Dental School of Rutgers, The State University, or be determined  
43 by the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority, in  
44 consultation with the Department of Health, to serve medically  
45 underserved populations;

46 (2) participate in the Medicaid and Medicare programs, however,  
47 the authority shall not require participation in more than one  
48 Medicaid managed care organization;

1       (3) use a sliding fee scale for patients falling under 250 percent  
 2 of the federal poverty level; and

3       (4) not discriminate against any patient in the provision of health  
 4 care services on the basis of that person's ability to pay or source of  
 5 payment.

6       b. The authority shall not require any additional site eligibility  
 7 requirements.<sup>2</sup>

8  
 9       <sup>2</sup>~~17.1~~ <sup>18.2</sup> (New section) The authority shall annually submit a  
 10 report on the Health Care Professional Loan Redemption Program  
 11 established pursuant to N.J.S.18A:71C-32 et seq. to the Governor,  
 12 and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164  
 13 (C.52:14-19.1). The report shall be submitted no later than August 1  
 14 of each year and shall include, but not be limited to, the following  
 15 information for the prior fiscal year:

16       a. the total number of participants receiving loan redemption  
 17 under the program;

18       b. the total amount of loan redemption provided through the  
 19 program;

20       c. a profile of program participants, including demographic  
 21 information<sup>2</sup>and medical specialty<sup>2</sup>, <sup>2</sup>~~17.1~~ information on the  
 22 employers of program participants<sup>2</sup>, <sup>2</sup>including if a participant's  
 23 approved site contracts with a State entity,<sup>2</sup> and the last institution of  
 24 higher education from which the participant received a degree;

25       d. the average annual loan redemption amount and the five-year  
 26 average loan redemption amount of program participants;

27       e. the total number of health care professionals who have  
 28 completed the program and remain licensed to practice in the State  
 29 <sup>2</sup>, including information on if a health care professional who  
 30 completed the program is employed in a medically underserved  
 31 community<sup>2</sup>; and

32       f. the effect of the program on meeting the demand for labor in  
 33 primary care, psychiatry, and other qualifying health care fields in  
 34 the State.<sup>1</sup>

35  
 36       <sup>1</sup>~~17.1~~ <sup>2</sup>~~18.1~~ <sup>19.2</sup> (New section) There is appropriated from  
 37 the General Fund to the Higher Education Student Assistance  
 38 Authority the sum of \$10,000,000 to effectuate the provisions of  
 39 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)<sup>2</sup>, of  
 40 which sum no more than three percent may be dedicated to the  
 41 administrative costs of the program<sup>2</sup>.

42  
 43       <sup>1</sup>~~18.1~~ <sup>2</sup>~~19.1~~ <sup>20.2</sup> This act shall take effect immediately<sup>2</sup>and  
 44 shall first apply to initial program applications submitted on or after  
 45 the enactment of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
 46 Legislature as this bill)<sup>2</sup>.