

ASSEMBLY, No. 3659

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 12, 2024

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblywoman MICHELE MATSIKLOUDIS

District 21 (Middlesex, Morris, Somerset and Union)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes tuition reimbursement program for certain advanced practice nurses who provide home health care services.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 4/4/2024)

1 AN ACT establishing a tuition reimbursement program for certain
2 advanced practice nurses who provide home health care services
3 and supplementing chapter 71C of Title 18A of the New Jersey
4 Statutes.

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

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9 1. As used in this act:

10 “Authority” means the Higher Education Student Assistance
11 Authority.

12 “Eligible tuition expenses” means tuition expenses that were
13 incurred by a program participant in attending an accredited
14 advanced practice nurse program, and which were not covered by
15 any grants or scholarships.

16 “Home health care services” means nursing and other home
17 health care services rendered at a patient’s place of residence.

18 “Program” means the tuition reimbursement program for
19 advanced practice nurses established pursuant to this act.

20 “Program participant” means an individual who is certified by
21 the New Jersey Board of Nursing as an advanced practice nurse,
22 and who contracts with the authority to provide home health care
23 services in return for tuition reimbursement provided under the
24 program.

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26 2. a. There is established in the Higher Education Student
27 Assistance Authority a tuition reimbursement program for advanced
28 practice nurses who provide home health care services. The
29 program shall provide reimbursement to program participants for a
30 portion of the eligible tuition expenses incurred by the participant in
31 attending an accredited advanced practice nurse program.

32 b. A program participant shall enter into a contract with the
33 authority for a specified number of one-year periods of service, up
34 to four years, in which the participant agrees to engage in the full-
35 time practice of providing home health care services in the State.
36 The agreement shall specify the program participant’s dates of
37 required service and the total amount of reimbursement of eligible
38 tuition expenses to be received by the participant in return for
39 service.

40 c. The tuition reimbursement for a participant under the
41 program shall equal 25 percent of the participant’s eligible tuition
42 expenses for the one academic year of an advanced practice nurse
43 program in which tuition was the lowest, in return for each full year
44 of service satisfactorily completed by the participant under the
45 program. The total tuition reimbursement amount for a program
46 participant, for four full years of service, shall not exceed 100
47 percent of the participant’s eligible tuition expenses for the one

1 academic year of an advanced practice nurse program in which
2 tuition was the lowest.

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4 3. To be eligible to participate in the program, an applicant
5 shall:

6 a. be a resident of New Jersey;

7 b. be certified by the New Jersey Board of Nursing as an
8 advanced practice nurse;

9 c. have received specialized education or training in providing
10 home health care services;

11 d. apply for the program within one year of obtaining
12 certification as an advanced practice nurse; and

13 e. agree to engage in the full-time practice of providing home
14 health care services in the State for a period of one to four years in
15 return for the tuition reimbursement provided under the program.

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17 4. The contract entered into between a program participant and
18 the authority pursuant to section 2 of this act shall require a
19 program participant to:

20 a. charge for professional services at the usual and customary
21 rate prevailing in the area in which the patient resides, but allow a
22 patient who is unable to pay that charge to pay at a reduced rate or
23 receive care at no charge;

24 b. not discriminate against any patient in the provision of home
25 health care services on the basis of that person's ability to pay or
26 source of payment; and

27 c. agree not to impose any charge in excess of the limiting fee
28 for a service, as determined by the United States Secretary of
29 Health and Human Services, to a recipient of benefits under the
30 federal Medicare program established pursuant to Pub.L.89-97
31 (42 U.S.C. s.1395 et seq.).

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33 5. A program participant, as a condition of participation, shall
34 be required to adhere to performance standards established by the
35 authority. The standards shall include, but not be limited to,
36 requirements that a program participant:

37 a. maintain residency in the State;

38 b. maintain certification to practice as an advanced practice
39 nurse in the State;

40 c. remain current with payments on any student loans;

41 d. maintain satisfactory performance of services; and

42 e. report to the authority, on a form and in a manner prescribed
43 by the authority, on the program participant's performance of
44 services rendered prior to reimbursement of tuition under the
45 program.

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47 6. An individual who is participating in the Primary Care
48 Practitioner Loan Redemption Program, N.J.S.18A:71C-32 et seq.,

1 or in the federally administered National Health Service Corps Loan
2 Repayment Program, section 338B of the Public Health Service Act
3 (42 U.S.C. s.2541-1), shall not be eligible to participate
4 simultaneously in the tuition reimbursement program established
5 pursuant to this act.

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7 7. The authority shall promulgate regulations pursuant to the
8 “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
9 seq.), necessary to effectuate the provisions of this act.

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11 8. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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16 This bill establishes a tuition reimbursement program for certain
17 advanced practice nurses who provide home health care services in
18 the State.

19 The program established under this bill will provide
20 reimbursement of a portion of tuition expenses incurred from
21 attending an accredited advanced practice nurse program to
22 advanced practice nurses who agree to provide home health care
23 services in the State for a period of one to four years. A program
24 participant must: be a State resident; be certified by the New Jersey
25 Board of Nursing as an advanced practice nurse; have specialized
26 education or training in providing home health care services; and
27 apply for the program within one year of obtaining certification as
28 an advanced practice nurse.

29 Program participants will enter into a contract with the Higher
30 Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) for a specified
31 number of one-year periods of service, up to four years, in which
32 the participant agrees to engage in the full-time practice of
33 providing home health care services in the State. In return for this
34 commitment, a portion of the participant’s tuition expenses in
35 attending an accredited advanced practice nurse program will be
36 reimbursed. Tuition reimbursement will equal 25 percent of the
37 participant’s eligible tuition expenses for the one academic year of
38 an advanced practice nurse program in which tuition was the
39 lowest, in return for each full year of service under the program.
40 The maximum total tuition reimbursement for a participant for four
41 years of service will be 100 percent of the participant’s eligible
42 tuition expenses for the one academic year of an advanced practice
43 nurse program in which tuition was the lowest.

44 Under the bill, participants in the program will be required to
45 adhere to certain terms and standards, including charging for
46 professional services at the usual and customary rates, allowing
47 patients who are unable to pay that charge to pay a reduced rate or
48 receive care at no charge, and not discriminating against any patient

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1 on the basis of ability to pay. Participants will also be required to
2 maintain their State residency and certification to practice as an
3 advanced practice nurse, remain current with payments on any
4 student loans, maintain satisfactory performance of services, and
5 report to HESAA on the performance of services rendered prior to
6 receiving tuition reimbursement.