

By: Price

H.B. No. 3083

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to eligibility requirements for the repayment of certain
3 mental health professional education loans.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 61.601, Education Code, is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 Sec. 61.601. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "mental
8 health professional" means:

9 (1) a licensed physician who is:

10 (A) a graduate of an accredited psychiatric
11 residency training program; or

12 (B) certified in psychiatry by:

13 (i) the American Board of Psychiatry and
14 Neurology; or

15 (ii) the American Osteopathic Board of
16 Neurology and Psychiatry;

17 (2) a psychologist, as defined by Section 501.002,
18 Occupations Code;

19 (3) a licensed professional counselor, as defined by
20 Section 503.002, Occupations Code;

21 (4) an advanced practice registered nurse, as defined
22 by Section 301.152, Occupations Code, who holds a nationally
23 recognized board certification in psychiatric or mental health
24 nursing; ~~and~~

1 (5) a licensed clinical social worker, as defined by
2 Section 505.002, Occupations Code; and

3 (6) a chemical dependency counselor, as defined by
4 Section 504.001, Occupations Code.

5 SECTION 2. Section 61.603(a), Education Code, is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (a) To be eligible to receive repayment assistance under
8 this subchapter, a mental health professional must:

9 (1) apply to the board;

10 (2) have completed [~~one,~~] two, three, four, or five
11 consecutive years of practice in a mental health professional
12 shortage area designated by the Department of State Health
13 Services; and

14 (3) provide mental health services in this state to:

15 (A) recipients under the medical assistance
16 program authorized by Chapter 32, Human Resources Code;

17 (B) enrollees under the child health plan program
18 authorized by Chapter 62, Health and Safety Code; or

19 (C) persons committed to a secure correctional
20 facility operated by or under contract with the Texas Juvenile
21 Justice Department or persons confined in a secure correctional
22 facility operated by or under contract with any division of the
23 Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

24 SECTION 3. Sections 61.607(a) and (b), Education Code, are
25 amended to read as follows:

26 (a) A mental health professional may receive repayment
27 assistance under this subchapter for each consecutive year the

1 mental health professional establishes eligibility for the
2 assistance in an amount determined by applying the following
3 applicable percentage to the maximum total amount of assistance
4 allowed for the mental health professional under Subsection (b):

- 5 (1) [~~for the first year, 10 percent,~~
6 [~~2~~] for the second year, 25 [~~15~~] percent;
7 (2) [~~3~~] for the third year, 20 percent;
8 (3) [~~4~~] for the fourth year, 25 percent; and
9 (4) [~~5~~] for the fifth year, 30 percent.

10 (b) The total amount of repayment assistance received by a
11 mental health professional under this subchapter may not exceed:

12 (1) \$160,000, for assistance received by a licensed
13 physician;

14 (2) \$80,000, for assistance received by:

15 (A) a psychologist;

16 (B) a licensed clinical social worker, if the
17 social worker has received a doctoral degree related to social
18 work; or

19 (C) a licensed professional counselor, if the
20 counselor has received a doctoral degree related to counseling;

21 (3) \$60,000, for assistance received by an advanced
22 practice registered nurse; [~~and~~]

23 (4) \$40,000, for assistance received by a licensed
24 clinical social worker or a licensed professional counselor who is
25 not described by Subdivision (2); and

26 (5) \$10,000, for assistance received by a licensed
27 chemical dependency counselor, if the chemical dependency

1 counselor has received an associate degree related to chemical
2 dependency counseling or behavioral science.

3 SECTION 4. The changes in law made by this Act to Sections
4 61.603(a) and 61.607(a), Education Code, apply only to a person who
5 first establishes eligibility for loan repayment assistance under
6 Subchapter K, Chapter 61, Education Code, as amended by this Act, on
7 the basis of an application submitted on or after September 1, 2017.
8 A person who first establishes eligibility on the basis of an
9 application submitted before September 1, 2017, is governed by the
10 law in effect at the time the application was submitted, and the
11 former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

12 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.