

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

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SENATE BILL 678
House Committee Substitute Favorable 6/2/09

Short Title: Establish Physician Assistant Scholarships. (Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 19, 2009

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT SCHOLARSHIPS.
3 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

4 SECTION 1. Chapter 90 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new
5 Article to read:

6 "Article 42.

7 "Physician Assistant Scholarships.

8 **"§ 90-750. Physician assistant scholarships fund.**

9 (a) There is created a scholarship loan fund for physician assistant students. Scholarship
10 loans shall be available for study in physician assistant education programs offered by The
11 University of North Carolina and by private colleges that offer accredited physician assistant
12 education programs.

13 (b) Physician assistant scholarship loan funds shall be administered by the State
14 Education Assistance Authority in accordance with rules adopted by the State Education
15 Assistance Authority. Scholarship loans shall be made only to prospective and enrolled
16 physician assistant students under the terms and conditions established for the physician
17 assistant scholarship loan program by the State Education Assistance Authority.

18 (c) The State Education Assistance Authority shall carry out the following functions in
19 implementing the physician assistant scholarship loan program:

20 (1) Adopt the rules necessary to implement the scholarship loan program,
21 including the selection criteria and method of selection of recipients of
22 physician assistant scholarship loans;

23 (2) Disburse, collect, and monitor scholarship loan funds;

24 (3) Establish the terms and conditions of promissory notes executed by
25 scholarship loan recipients;

26 (4) Approve service repayment agreements;

27 (5) Collect cash repayments required when service repayment is not completed;
28 and

29 (6) Adopt rules to allow for the forgiveness of scholarship loans if it determines
30 that it is impossible for the recipient to practice as a physician assistant in
31 North Carolina for a sufficient time to repay the loan because of the death or
32 permanent disability of the recipient within 10 years following graduation or
33 termination of enrollment in a physician assistant education program.

34 (d) The State Education Assistance Authority shall forgive the scholarship loan if,
35 within four years after graduation from a physician assistant education program, the physician
36 assistant practices in a medically underserved area or discipline, as defined by the North



1 Carolina Office of Rural Health and Community Care. Two years of service is required to pay
2 each year of the scholarship loan.

3 (e) The State Education Assistance Authority shall forgive the scholarship loan if,
4 within four years after graduation from a physician assistant education program, the physician
5 assistant serves as a full-time faculty member in a North Carolina physician assistant education
6 program accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician
7 Assistant. Two years of service is required to pay each year of the scholarship loan."

8 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2009.