

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

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SENATE BILL 678

Short Title: Establish Physician Assistant Scholarships. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Brunstetter; Apodaca, Forrester, Snow, and Tillman.

Referred to: Education/Higher Education.

March 19, 2009

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE NEED-BASED PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT
3 SCHOLARSHIPS.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

7 "Article 42.

8 "Need-Based Physician Assistant Scholarships.

9 **"§ 90-750. Need-based physician assistant scholarships fund.**

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

14 (b) Need-based physician assistant scholarship loan funds shall be administered by the
15 State Education Assistance Authority in accordance with rules adopted by the State Education
16 Assistance Authority. Distribution of scholarship loan funds among students enrolled in the
17 constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina and private colleges shall be in
18 amounts proportionate to the amounts awarded to each such group of students in the preceding
19 fiscal year. Scholarship loans shall be made only to prospective and enrolled physician assistant
20 students under the terms and conditions established for the need-based physician assistant
21 scholarship loan program by the State Education Assistance Authority.

22 (c) The State Education Assistance Authority shall carry out the following functions in
23 implementing the need-based physician assistant scholarship loan program:

24 (1) Adopt the rules necessary to implement the scholarship loan program,
25 including the selection criteria and method of selection of recipients of
26 need-based physician assistant scholarship loans;

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

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

30 (4) Approve service repayment agreements;

31 (5) Collect cash repayments required when service repayment is not completed;
32 and

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



1 (d) The State Education Assistance Authority shall forgive the scholarship loan if,
2 within four years after graduation from a physician assistant education program, the physician
3 assistant practices in a medically underserved area or discipline, as defined by the North
4 Carolina Office of Rural Health and Community Care. Two years of service is required to pay
5 each year of the scholarship loan.

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

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