

HB 1234 -- NURSING STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

SPONSOR: Loehner

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Special Committee on Student Achievement and Finance by a vote of 8 to 0.

This bill changes two provisions of the Nursing Student Loan Repayment Program. "Eligible student" is redefined as a person who has been accepted as a full-time nursing student, rather than a person who has applied for admission. Currently, 25% of the loan is forgiven for each year of employment; the bill revises the repayment provision to permit forgiveness through employment without mention of a specific schedule.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that these two changes should help reduce the default rate and make the loan more like the Primary Care Resource Initiative for Missouri (PRIMO) loan which is available to other medical professionals.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Loehner; Department of Health and Senior Services; Missouri Nurses Association; and Allison Norwood.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Becky DeNeve, Senior Legislative Analyst