

SB 513 -- NURSING STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM

SPONSOR: Clemens (Wasson)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 11 to 0.

This bill revises the definition of "qualified employment" as it applies to the Professional and Practical Nursing Student Loan Program to include any agency, institution, or organization located in an area of need as determined by the Department of Health and Senior Services.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2008, FY 2009, and FY 2010.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that in health shortage areas, nurses working in private health care facilities are not receiving the same loan forgiveness which nurses working in public or nonprofit facilities are receiving. The bill makes the loan forgiveness program requirements uniform for all nurses working in health shortage areas.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Clemens; and Missouri Nurses Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.