

State of South Dakota

SEVENTY-SEVENTH SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2002

913H0527

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

ENGROSSED NO. **HB 1258** - 02/19/2002

This bill has been extensively amended (hoghoused) and may no longer be consistent with the original intention of the sponsor.

Introduced by: Representatives Hunhoff, Abdallah, Begalka, Broderick, Elliott, Frost, Heineman, Holbeck, Kooistra, Michels, Murschel, Olson (Mel), Peterson (Bill), Sebert, Solum, Sutton (Duane), Van Etten, and Van Gerpen and Senators Olson (Ed), Albers, Brown (Arnold), Cradduck, de Hueck, McCracken, Moore, and Volesky

1 FOR AN ACT ENTITLED, An Act to establish a tuition reimbursement program for nurses.

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

3 Section 1. A nurse is eligible to receive tuition reimbursement payments pursuant to this Act
4 if the nurse is licensed to practice nursing pursuant to chapter 36-9 and agrees to practice full
5 time as a nurse in an eligible health care facility for a minimum period of two years. However,
6 no more than sixty nurses may participate in this program at any specified time.

7 Section 2. For purposes of this Act, an eligible health care facility is any facility in this state
8 which:

9 (1) Is licensed pursuant to chapter 34-12 or certified under Title XVIII or XIX of the
10 Social Security Act as amended to December 31, 2001;

11 (2) Agrees to provide its portion of the tuition reimbursement payments payable to a
12 nurse who practices in the health care facility as required by this Act; and



1 (3) Is determined to be eligible by the Department of Health.

2 Prior to making a determination under subdivision (3) of this section, the Department of
3 Health shall promulgate rules pursuant to chapter 1-26 to establish specific criteria to evaluate
4 each facility's need for nurses.

5 Section 3. A nurse who fulfills the requirements of this Act is entitled to receive tuition
6 reimbursement in the amount of five thousand dollars.

7 Section 4. Any agreement for the payment of tuition reimbursement pursuant to this Act shall
8 obligate the facility employing the nurse to provide a portion of the total amount of tuition
9 reimbursement based on the following criteria: health care facilities in communities of two
10 thousand five hundred persons or less shall provide twenty-five percent of tuition reimbursement
11 payments and health care facilities in communities of greater than two thousand five hundred
12 persons shall provide fifty percent of tuition reimbursement payments. When the facility certifies
13 to the secretary of health that it has paid the full amount for which it is obligated, the secretary
14 of health shall pay to the nurse the remaining balance of the total tuition reimbursement amount.
15 Reimbursement shall be paid upon the nurse's completion of the required two-year practice
16 period. However, a facility may pay its portion of tuition reimbursement at any time during the
17 two-year period.

18 Section 5. Any county or municipality may appropriate funds for the purpose of carrying out
19 the provisions of this Act.

20 Section 6. No tuition reimbursement agreement entered into pursuant to the provisions of
21 this Act is effective until it is filed with and approved by the secretary of health. The secretary
22 may prescribe the form of agreements and procedures for approval by rules promulgated
23 pursuant to chapter 1-26.

24 Section 7. No person may participate in the tuition reimbursement program established by

- 1 this Act who is participating in, or has previously participated in, this or any other state or federal
- 2 tuition reimbursement or forgiveness program.