Citations Affected: IC 21-13; IC 25-23-1.

Synopsis: Nurse faculty loan repayment grant program. Establishes the nursing faculty loan repayment grant program (program) to increase the number of nursing faculty in Indiana. Requires the commission for higher education to administer the program. Establishes the nursing faculty loan repayment grant fund. Sets forth requirements for an individual to participate in the program. Funds the program using 10% of nursing licensure fees.

Effective: July 1, 2018.
A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning higher education.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

SECTION 1. IC 21-13-1-5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.148-2016, SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2018]: Sec. 5. "Fund":

(1) for purposes of IC 21-13-2, refers to the William A. Crawford minority teacher scholarship fund established by IC 21-13-2-1;
(2) for purposes of IC 21-13-4, refers to the National Guard tuition supplement program fund established by IC 21-13-4-1;
(3) for purposes of IC 21-13-5, refers to the National Guard scholarship extension fund established by IC 21-13-5-1;
(4) for purposes of IC 21-13-6, refers to the primary care physician loan forgiveness fund established by IC 21-13-6-3; and
(5) for purposes of IC 21-13-6.5, refers to the medical residency education fund established by IC 21-13-6.5-1; and
(6) for purposes of IC 21-13-9.5, refers to the nursing faculty loan repayment grant fund established by IC 21-13-9.5-3.

SECTION 2. IC 21-13-9.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2018]:

Chapter 9.5. Nursing Faculty Loan Repayment Grant Program
Sec. 1. (a) The nursing faculty loan repayment grant program is established for the purpose of increasing the number of educators and adjunct clinical faculty teaching in the field of nursing education in Indiana by assisting in the repayment of qualified student loans.
(b) The commission shall administer the program. The commission may consult with the Indiana state board of nursing in implementing and administering the program.
Sec. 2. To qualify for a grant under this chapter to assist in the repayment of student loans, an individual must meet the following:
(1) Be a resident of Indiana and have resided in Indiana for twelve (12) continuous months before applying for the grant.
(2) Be a United States citizen or an alien who is admitted into the United States for lawful, permanent residence.
(3) Is a registered nurse licensed under IC 25-23.
(4) Either:
   (A) holds a graduate degree in nursing or a doctoral degree for qualification as a nursing faculty or adjunct clinical faculty; or
   (B) is enrolled in a graduate degree program for qualification as nursing faculty or adjunct clinical faculty.
(5) Be employed as a nursing faculty member or an adjunct clinical faculty member providing classroom or clinical instruction at a nursing school located in Indiana for the equivalent of at least twelve (12) credit hours during an annual period beginning July 1 and ending June 30.
(6) Has an outstanding balance on an eligible student loan on an undergraduate, graduate, or doctorate level nursing degree for qualification as nursing faculty or adjunct clinical faculty, that:
   (A) holds a non-default status; and
   (B) is under any Indiana or federal education loan program.
Sec. 3. (a) The nursing faculty loan repayment grant fund is established to meet the purpose set forth in section 1 of this chapter. The fund consists of the following:
   (1) Appropriations from the general assembly.
   (2) Money collected and deposited under IC 25-23-1-12.5.
   (3) Gifts to the program.
   (b) The commission shall administer the fund.
   (c) The expenses of administering the fund shall be paid from money in the fund.
   (d) The treasurer of state shall invest the money in the fund not currently needed to meet the obligations of the fund in the same manner as other public funds. Interest that accrues from those investments shall be deposited in the fund.
   (e) Money in the fund at the end of a fiscal year does not revert to the state general fund but remains available to be used to provide money for student loan forgiveness payments under this chapter.
Sec. 4. (a) The money in the fund must be used to provide annual student loan forgiveness payments to nurses who meet the requirements set forth in section 2 of this chapter and who are approved by the commission to participate in the program.
   (b) A grant awarded in a particular year under this chapter is equal to the lesser of the following amounts:
      (1) The balance of the recipient's total amount of eligible student loans.
(2) Five thousand dollars ($5,000).

(c) An individual may not be awarded more than twenty-five thousand dollars ($25,000) under this program in the individual's lifetime.

Sec. 5. Each:

(1) applicant under this chapter; and

(2) nurse approved under this chapter;

shall provide to the commission any information that the commission determines is necessary to administer this chapter.

SECTION 3. IC 25-23-1-11, AS AMENDED BY P.L.134-2008, SECTION 29, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2018]: Sec. 11. (a) Any person who applies to the board for a license to practice as a registered nurse must:

(1) not have:

(A) been convicted of a crime that has a direct bearing on the person's ability to practice competently; or

(B) committed an act that would constitute a ground for a disciplinary sanction under IC 25-1-9;

(2) have completed:

(A) the prescribed curriculum and met the graduation requirements of a state accredited program of registered nursing that only accepts students who have a high school diploma or its equivalent as determined by the board; or

(B) the prescribed curriculum and graduation requirements of a nursing education program in a foreign country that is substantially equivalent to a board approved program as determined by the board. The board may by rule adopted under IC 4-22-2 require an applicant under this subsection to successfully complete an examination approved by the board to measure the applicant's qualifications and background in the practice of nursing and proficiency in the English language; and

(3) be physically and mentally capable of and professionally competent to safely engage in the practice of nursing as determined by the board.

The board may not require a person to have a baccalaureate degree in nursing as a prerequisite for licensure.

(b) The applicant must pass an examination in such subjects as the board may determine.

(c) The board may issue by endorsement a license to practice as a registered nurse to an applicant who has been licensed as a registered nurse, by examination, under the laws of another state if the applicant presents proof satisfactory to the board that, at the time that the applicant applies for an Indiana license by endorsement, the applicant holds a current license in another state and possesses credentials and qualifications that are substantially equivalent to requirements in
Indiana for licensure by examination. The board may specify by rule what constitutes substantial equivalence under this subsection.

(d) The board may issue by endorsement a license to practice as a registered nurse to an applicant who:

(1) has completed the English version of the:
   (A) Canadian Nurse Association Testing Service Examination (CNAT); or
   (B) Canadian Registered Nurse Examination (CRNE);

(2) achieved the passing score required on the examination at the time the examination was taken;

(3) is currently licensed in a Canadian province or in another state; and

(4) meets the other requirements under this section.

(e) Each applicant for examination and registration to practice as a registered nurse shall pay a fee set by the board, a part of which must be used for the rehabilitation of impaired registered nurses and impaired licensed practical nurses and as specified in section 12.5 of this chapter. Payment of the fee or fees shall be made by the applicant prior to the date of examination. The lesser of the following amounts from fees collected under this subsection shall be deposited in the impaired nurses account of the state general fund established by section 34 of this chapter:

(1) Twenty-five percent (25%) of the license application fee per license applied for under this section.

(2) The cost per license to operate the impaired nurses program, as determined by the Indiana professional licensing agency.

(f) Any person who holds a license to practice as a registered nurse in:

(1) Indiana; or

(2) a party state (as defined in IC 25-23.3-2-11 (before its expiration));

may use the title "Registered Nurse" and the abbreviation "R.N.". No other person shall practice or advertise as or assume the title of registered nurse or use the abbreviation of "R.N." or any other words, letters, signs, or figures to indicate that the person using same is a registered nurse.

SECTION 4. IC 25-23-1-12, AS AMENDED BY P.L.134-2008, SECTION 30, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2018]: Sec. 12. (a) A person who applies to the board for a license to practice as a licensed practical nurse must:

(1) not have been convicted of:

(A) an act which would constitute a ground for disciplinary sanction under IC 25-1-9; or

(B) a crime that has a direct bearing on the person's ability to practice competently;

(2) have completed:
(A) the prescribed curriculum and met the graduation requirements of a state accredited program of practical nursing that only accepts students who have a high school diploma or its equivalent, as determined by the board; or

(B) the prescribed curriculum and graduation requirements of a nursing education program in a foreign country that is substantially equivalent to a board approved program as determined by the board. The board may by rule adopted under IC 4-22-2 require an applicant under this subsection to successfully complete an examination approved by the board to measure the applicant's qualifications and background in the practice of nursing and proficiency in the English language; and

(3) be physically and mentally capable of, and professionally competent to, safely engage in the practice of practical nursing as determined by the board.

(b) The applicant must pass an examination in such subjects as the board may determine.

(c) The board may issue by endorsement a license to practice as a licensed practical nurse to an applicant who has been licensed as a licensed practical nurse, by examination, under the laws of another state if the applicant presents proof satisfactory to the board that, at the time of application for an Indiana license by endorsement, the applicant possesses credentials and qualifications that are substantially equivalent to requirements in Indiana for licensure by examination. The board may specify by rule what shall constitute substantial equivalence under this subsection.

(d) Each applicant for examination and registration to practice as a practical nurse shall pay a fee set by the board, a part of which must be used for the rehabilitation of impaired registered nurses and impaired licensed practical nurses and as specified in section 12.5 of this chapter. Payment of the fees shall be made by the applicant before the date of examination. The lesser of the following amounts from fees collected under this subsection shall be deposited in the impaired nurses account of the state general fund established by section 34 of this chapter:

(1) Twenty-five percent (25%) of the license application fee per license applied for under this section.

(2) The cost per license to operate the impaired nurses program, as determined by the Indiana professional licensing agency.

(e) Any person who holds a license to practice as a licensed practical nurse in:

(1) Indiana; or

(2) a party state (as defined in IC 25-23.3-2-11 (before its expiration));

may use the title "Licensed Practical Nurse" and the abbreviation
"L.P.N.". No other person shall practice or advertise as or assume the title of licensed practical nurse or use the abbreviation of "L.P.N." or any other words, letters, signs, or figures to indicate that the person using them is a licensed practical nurse.

SECTION 5. IC 25-23-1-12.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2018]: Sec. 12.5. Ten percent (10%) of the fees collected under sections 11 and 12 of this chapter shall be deposited in the nursing faculty loan repayment grant fund established by IC 21-13-9.5-3 for the purposes specified in IC 21-13-9.5-1.