

IN THE SENATE

SENATE BILL NO. 1362

BY JUDICIARY AND RULES COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO THE PERSONNEL SYSTEM; AMENDING CHAPTER 53, TITLE 67, IDAHO CODE,
2 BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 67-5339, IDAHO CODE, TO ESTABLISH A LOAN
3 REPAYMENT PROGRAM FOR PHYSICIANS, PSYCHOLOGISTS AND MID-LEVEL PRACTI-
4 TIONERS AT CERTAIN STATE HOSPITALS, TO DEFINE TERMS, TO PROVIDE LIMITA-
5 TIONS ON THE PROGRAM, TO PROVIDE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE PROGRAM,
6 TO ESTABLISH A STATE HOSPITAL GOVERNING BODY TO OVERSEE THE PROGRAM, TO
7 PROVIDE THAT ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES SHALL ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE
8 GOVERNING BODY FOR LOAN REPAYMENT, TO ESTABLISH CRITERIA FOR THE AGREE-
9 MENT WITH THE GOVERNING BODY, TO PROVIDE FOR THE LENGTH OF THE PROGRAM
10 AND TO PROVIDE FOR AMOUNTS TO BE REIMBURSED.
11

12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

13 SECTION 1. That Chapter 53, Title 67, Idaho Code, be, and the same is
14 hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and des-
15 ignated as Section 67-5339, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

16 67-5339. LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM. (1) There is hereby created an edu-
17 cational loan repayment program for eligible physicians, psychologists and
18 mid-level practitioners at state hospital north and state hospital south.

19 (2) For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall ap-
20 ply:

21 (a) "Mid-level practitioner" means a position at state hospital north
22 or state hospital south that is licensed as a nurse practitioner pur-
23 suant to chapter 14, title 54, Idaho Code, or as a physician assistant
24 pursuant to chapter 18, title 54, Idaho Code.

25 (b) "Physician" means a physician at state hospital north or state hos-
26 pital south that is licensed to practice medicine pursuant to chapter
27 18, title 54, Idaho Code.

28 (c) "Psychologist" means a psychologist at state hospital north or
29 state hospital south that is licensed to practice psychology pursuant
30 to chapter 23, title 54, Idaho Code.

31 (3) The educational loan repayment program shall be subject to appro-
32 priation by the Idaho legislature.

33 (4) The educational loan repayment program shall be limited to the
34 repayment of outstanding loans accrued prior to employment in a qualifying
35 job class for undergraduate, graduate and medical school incurred by physi-
36 cians, psychologists or mid-level practitioners who are eligible for the
37 program under the provisions of this section.

38 (5) There is hereby created a state hospital governing body. The state
39 hospital governing body shall have the responsibility to oversee the educa-
40 tional loan repayment program and the authority to offer loan repayment dis-
41 bursements under the program and shall annually review each loan repayment
42 agreement entered into pursuant to subsection (6) of this section and deter-

1 mine whether continuation of the loan repayment program for each participat-
2 ing employee shall occur based upon the number of program participants and
3 the availability of funds. The state hospital governing body shall consist
4 of the administrator of the division of behavioral health, the hospital ad-
5 ministrator of state hospital south, the president of the medical staff at
6 state hospital south and the hospital administrator of state hospital north.
7 The administrator of the division of behavioral health shall be the chair of
8 the state hospital governing body.

9 (6) Employees eligible for loan repayment under the provisions of this
10 section shall be required to enter into an agreement with the state hospi-
11 tal governing body each year a loan repayment disbursement is offered. The
12 agreement shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

13 (a) Disclosure of the employee's current student loan balance;

14 (b) Affirmation by the hospital that the employee has provided no less
15 than two thousand eighty (2,080) credited state service hours prior to
16 first disbursement and that the employee has obtained satisfactory per-
17 formance standards during this time;

18 (c) Affirmation that any subsequent disbursements occur one (1) year
19 or two thousand eighty (2,080) credited state service hours after the
20 previous disbursement and that the employee has obtained satisfactory
21 performance standards during this time; and

22 (d) Confirmation that any prior disbursements made under this program
23 were used to pay outstanding student loans.

24 (7) Loan repayment disbursements made pursuant to this section shall be
25 limited to a period of four (4) years.

26 (8) Loan repayment disbursements made pursuant to this section shall be
27 made as follows:

28 (a) For physician reimbursements, a single yearly reimbursement may be
29 made to or on behalf of an eligible physician not to exceed:

30 (i) Fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) for the employee's first
31 year of eligibility;

32 (ii) Fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) for the employee's second
33 year of eligibility;

34 (iii) Twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) for the employee's third
35 year of eligibility; and

36 (iv) Twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for the employee's
37 fourth year of eligibility.

38 (b) For psychologist reimbursements, a single yearly reimbursement may
39 be made to or on behalf of an eligible psychologist not to exceed:

40 (i) Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for the employee's first year
41 of eligibility;

42 (ii) Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for the employee's second
43 year of eligibility;

44 (iii) Fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) for the employee's third
45 year of eligibility; and

46 (iv) Fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) for the employee's fourth
47 year of eligibility.

48 (c) For mid-level practitioner reimbursements, a single yearly reim-
49 bursement may be made to or on behalf of an eligible mid-level practi-
50 tioner not to exceed:

- 1 (i) Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for the employee's first year
- 2 of eligibility;
- 3 (ii) Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for the employee's second
- 4 year of eligibility;
- 5 (iii) Fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) for the employee's third
- 6 year of eligibility; and
- 7 (iv) Fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) for the employee's fourth
- 8 year of eligibility.