

1 SB44
2 134149-3
3 By Senator Whatley
4 RFD: Finance and Taxation Education
5 First Read: 07-FEB-12
6 PFD: 09/23/2011

1 SB44

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4 ENROLLED, An Act,

5 To amend Sections 34-21-60, 34-21-61, 34-21-62, and
6 34-21-63, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to graduate degree
7 scholarships for nurses; to increase the amount of such
8 scholarships; to require applicants to meet additional
9 qualifications; and to require any appropriation to fund the
10 scholarships be made through the Education Trust Fund.

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

12 Section 1. Sections 34-21-60, 34-21-61, 34-21-62,
13 and 34-21-63 of the Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read
14 as follows:

15 "§34-21-60.

16 "There shall be established for the fiscal year
17 ending September 30, 2012, scholarships for graduate education
18 of nurses. These scholarships shall be awarded to applicants
19 from the State of Alabama at large. They shall be distributed,
20 insofar as practicable, throughout the state. The number of
21 scholarships shall equal five percent of the total enrollment
22 in graduate nursing programs in Alabama. Each scholarship is
23 limited to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

24 "§34-21-61.

1 "(a) To be eligible to receive a scholarship
2 provided by this article, an applicant shall satisfy all of
3 the following requirements:

4 "(1) Be a resident of the State of Alabama for a
5 period of at least one year immediately preceding the time of
6 making application.

7 "(2) Be a person of good character.

8 "(3) Have an active, unencumbered license as a
9 professional nurse in Alabama.

10 "(4) Be accepted for an Alabama graduate program
11 conducted by an accredited college or university.

12 "(5) Agree to practice professional nursing or
13 become a nursing instructor in the State of Alabama for at
14 least two years after completing the graduate degree. The
15 recipient of these scholarships may apply to the Board of
16 Nursing for a waiver from these requirements for extenuating
17 circumstances beyond the control of the recipient.

18 "(b) Preference shall be given to applicants
19 pursuing a career in nursing education.

20 "(c) These scholarships shall be available to
21 applicants seeking master's or doctorate degrees in nursing.
22 Doctorate degrees in education are also acceptable provided
23 the applicant holds a graduate degree in nursing.

24 "(d) Application for these scholarships shall be
25 made to the Alabama Board of Nursing. The Board of Nursing

1 shall receive five percent of the total appropriation to
2 administer the scholarships.

3 "§34-21-62.

4 "Each scholarship provided for by this article shall
5 not exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per year, payable
6 from funds appropriated to the Alabama Board of Nursing for
7 this purpose. Contingent upon subsequent legislative funding
8 of this program, a scholarship may either be renewed by the
9 Alabama Board of Nursing for the same student or awarded to
10 another applicant for the scholarship. Criteria for the
11 selection of recipients and awarding of the scholarships shall
12 be established by the Alabama Board of Nursing. These criteria
13 shall be used as guides in the selection of the scholarship
14 recipients from the various geographical areas of the state.
15 In case a scholarship student fails to complete the course
16 prescribed for a graduate degree in nursing, that student
17 shall repay the amount of any scholarship funds received
18 hereunder to the State Treasury. In the event of the
19 scholarship recipient's death, the obligation for funds
20 disbursed and not repaid shall be cancelled. In the event the
21 scholarship recipient becomes mentally or physically impaired
22 and is unable to complete a graduate course in nursing, or has
23 received a graduate degree but is unable to complete one year
24 of service as a nurse due to such disability, the obligation
25 for funds disbursed and not repaid shall be cancelled.

1 "§34-21-63.

2 "Any appropriation made to fund the scholarships may
3 be made through the Education Trust Fund to the Alabama Board
4 of Nursing for each fiscal year."

5 Section 2. This act shall become effective
6 immediately following its passage and approval by the
7 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

SB44

Senate 09-FEB-12

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and passed the Senate, as amended.

Patrick Harris
Secretary

House of Representatives
Amended and passed 17-APR-12

Senate concurred in House amendment 19-APR-12

By: Senator Whatley