

1 SB209
2 125924-2
3 By Senator Whatley
4 RFD: Finance and Taxation Education
5 First Read: 10-MAR-11

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8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, the Alabama Board of
9 Nursing awards graduate degree scholarships for
10 nurses of \$3,800 per year to those who qualify and
11 agree to practice nursing in Alabama for one year.

12 This bill would increase the amount of the
13 scholarship awards to \$10,000 and would award
14 scholarships equal to five percent of those
15 enrolled in graduate nursing programs in Alabama.

16 This bill would require applicants to have
17 an Alabama professional nursing license and agree
18 to practice nursing in Alabama for two years.

19 This bill would give preference to
20 applicants pursuing a career in nursing education.

21 This bill would provide that any
22 appropriation to fund the scholarships be made
23 through the Education Trust Fund.

24
25 A BILL

26 TO BE ENTITLED

27 AN ACT

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

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

"§34-21-60.

"There shall be established for the fiscal year ending September 30, ~~1978, 15~~ 2011, scholarships for ~~post-baccalaureate~~ graduate education of nurses. These scholarships shall be awarded to applicants from the State of Alabama at large. They shall be distributed, insofar as practicable, throughout the state. The number of scholarships shall equal five percent of the total enrollment in graduate nursing programs in Alabama. Each scholarship is limited to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

"§34-21-61.

"a) To be eligible to receive a scholarship provided by this article, ~~a person must have been an applicant~~ shall satisfy all of the following requirements:

1 "(1) Be a resident of the State of Alabama for a
2 period of at least one year immediately preceding the time of
3 making application, ~~must be.~~

4 "(2) Be a person of good character ~~and shall have~~
5 ~~been.~~

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

8 "(4) Be accepted for ~~matriculation in a~~ ~~an~~ Alabama
9 graduate ~~nursing~~ program conducted by an accredited ~~school of~~
10 ~~nursing, must hold a baccalaureate degree in nursing from an~~
11 ~~accredited nursing school and must agree~~ ~~college or~~
12 university.

13 "(5) Agree to practice professional nursing in the
14 State of Alabama for at least ~~one year~~ two years after
15 completing the ~~course in~~ graduate ~~study~~ degree.

16 "(b) Preference shall be given to applicants pursing
17 a career in nursing education.

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

22 "(d) Application for these scholarships shall be
23 made to the Alabama Board of Nursing. The Board of Nursing
24 shall receive five percent of the total appropriation to
25 administer the scholarships.

26 "§34-21-62.

"Each scholarship provided for by this article shall be in the amount of \$3,800 not exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per year, payable from funds appropriated to the Alabama Board of Nursing for this purpose. Contingent upon subsequent legislative funding of this program, a scholarship may either be renewed by the Alabama Board of Nursing for the same student or awarded to another applicant for the scholarship. Criteria for the selection of recipients and awarding of the scholarships shall be established by the Alabama Board of Nursing. These criteria shall be used as guides in the selection of the scholarship recipients from the various geographical areas of the state. In case a scholarship student fails to complete the course prescribed for a graduate degree in nursing, that student shall repay the amount of any scholarship funds received hereunder to the State Treasury. In the event of the scholarship recipient's death, the obligation for funds disbursed and not repaid shall be cancelled. In the event the scholarship recipient becomes mentally or physically impaired and is unable to complete a graduate course in nursing, or has received a graduate degree but is unable to complete one year of service as a nurse due to such disability, the obligation for funds disbursed and not repaid shall be cancelled.

"§34-21-63.

"There is hereby appropriated each year, beginning with the fiscal year ending September 30, 1978, to the Alabama Board of Nursing, out of any funds in the State Treasury to

1 the credit of the Education Trust Fund, the sum of \$57,000, to
2 be used solely for funding scholarships provided by this
3 article. The Any appropriation provided in this section is in
4 addition to any appropriations heretofore made, or to fund the
5 scholarships shall be made, through the Education Trust Fund
6 to the Alabama Board of Nursing for each fiscal year."

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