

Original sponsors: Ellis, Koponen,
and Gruenberg

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

2

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 10 (HESS)

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to forgiveness of student loans of
7 certain health care professionals; and providing for
8 an effective date."

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

10 * Section 1. AS 14.43.120 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

11 (s) If a borrower meets the conditions provided in this section
12 and is employed as a health care professional in an area determined to
13 have a health care professional shortage for the borrower's profession
14 by the Department of Health and Social Services under AS 44.29.020(b),
15 a portion of the loan shall, subject to appropriation by the legisla-
16 ture, be paid by the state equal to the following percentages of the
17 total loan received plus interest up to a total of 70 percent of the
18 total loan: (1) one year employment, 10 percent; (2) two years em-
19 ployment, an additional 12 percent; (3) three years employment, an
20 additional 14 percent; (4) four years employment, an additional 16
21 percent; (5) five years employment, an additional 18 percent. In this
22 subsection, "health care professional" means a person who is licensed
23 as a physician or osteopath under AS 08.64.230, as a physical thera-
24 pist or occupational therapist under AS 08.84, as a registered nurse
25 under AS 08.68.190 or 08.68.200, or a person practicing medicine as a
26 physician's assistant.

27 (t) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, while a person's
28 loan is being paid by the state under (s) of this section, that person
29 may not receive forgiveness of a loan under any other section of this

1 chapter.

2 * Sec. 2. AS 44.29.020 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

3 (b) The department shall, by September 30 of each year, prepare
4 a report that (1) lists by profession those geographic areas of the
5 state that have a health care professional shortage, (2) identifies
6 the number of health care professionals employed in each area of
7 shortage, and (3) recommends changes to the health care professional
8 loan forgiveness program under AS 14.43.120(s). The report prepared
9 under this subsection shall be provided to the Alaska Commission on
10 Postsecondary Education. The commissioner of health and social ser-
11 vices shall adopt regulations regarding the determination of geo-
12 graphic areas with a health care professional shortage. In this
13 subsection "health care professional" has the meaning given in AS 14.-
14 43.120(s).

15 * Sec. 3. APPLICABILITY. This Act applies to a person's employment as
16 a health care professional that occurs after July 1, 1989.

17 * Sec. 4. This Act takes effect July 1, 1989.