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## **S.F. No. 4101 – Nursing educational loan forgiveness program provisions modifications and appropriation**

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In 2023, a loan forgiveness program for hospital nurses was integrated into the pre-existing health professional educational loan forgiveness program, and \$5,317,000 on-going was appropriated for hospital nursing educational loan forgiveness. **S.F. 4101** removes the hospital nursing educational loan forgiveness program from the health professional loan forgiveness program, establishes it as its own program, and cancels and reappropriates its existing funding. In addition, **S.F. 4101** adds \$25 million in one-time funding to the hospital nursing educational loan forgiveness program.

Sections 1 through 4 remove the hospital nurses educational loan forgiveness program from the health professional educational loan forgiveness program. In addition, section 2 makes two clarifying changes specifying that the health professional education loan forgiveness program account exists in the health care access fund. These clarifying changes render Minnesota Statutes, **section 144.1501, subdivision 2** consistent with existing language in section 144.1501, subdivision 5, which is not included in the bill.

Section 5 adds **section 144.1521, title “Hospital nursing educational loan forgiveness program”** to Minnesota Statutes. The loan program and the creation of an account in the health care access fund mirror the provisions in the existing health professional educational loan forgiveness program.

**Subdivision 1** defines “emergency circumstances,” “hospital nurse,” and “qualified educational loan” for the purposes of the statutes governing the new version of the hospital nursing educational loan forgiveness program.

**Subdivision 2** establishes a hospital nursing educational loan forgiveness program account in the health care access fund for the purposes of receiving transfers from the general fund and for distributing loan forgiveness funds to program participants.

**Subdivision 3** specifies the eligibility requirements for participation in the hospital nursing educational loan forgiveness program, including application requirements and service commitment requirements.

**Subdivision 4** specifies that the commissioner shall randomly select program participants if applications from eligible applicants exceed the available funding and specifies the terms of the loan forgiveness disbursements.

**Subdivision 5** specifies the penalties for failing to fulfill the service requirements and authorizes the commissioner to waive such penalties under certain emergency circumstances.

Sections 6 and 7 cancel the fiscal year 2025 appropriation for the original version of the hospital nurses educational loan forgiveness program.

Section 8 repurposes administrative funding appropriated in 2023 by allowing the commissioner of health to use that administrative funding to administer the new version of the hospital nursing educational loan forgiveness program.

Section 9 reappropriates the general fund appropriation canceled in sections 6 and 7 to the commissioner of health for the new version of the hospital nursing educational loan forgiveness program, and adds an additional \$25 million in onetime funding and makes the onetime funding available until June 30, 2033.