

SENATE FILE NO. SF0003

Advanced practice registered nurses in psychiatry.

Sponsored by: Select Committee on Mental Health and
Substance Abuse Services

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to professional health services;
2 establishing an educational loan repayment program for
3 students seeking to specialize as advanced practice
4 registered nurses in psychiatry; specifying requirements;
5 providing for loan forgiveness as specified; requiring
6 reports; providing for a continuous appropriation;
7 providing an appropriation; and providing for an effective
8 date.

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10 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

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12 **Section 1.** W.S. 21-17-116 is created to read:

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14 **21-17-116. Course in field of advanced practice**
15 **registered nurse in psychiatry; authority to offer;**

1 **contracts with students; repayment of funds expended;**
2 **deposit of repayments.**

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4 (a) In addition to other powers heretofore granted to
5 the trustees of the University of Wyoming, the board may
6 offer and provide, in whole or in part at the university or
7 in whole or in part at other institutions, universities or
8 colleges within or without the state, a course of training
9 and education in the field of nursing for advanced practice
10 registered nurses in psychiatry.

11
12 (b) To accomplish the purposes of this section and in
13 order that degrees in advanced practice registered nurse in
14 psychiatry may be awarded by the university, the board of
15 trustees may enter into contracts with other institutions,
16 universities or colleges within or without the state that
17 maintain schools for the training and education of students
18 in advanced practice registered nurse with a specialty in
19 psychiatry and to expend its funds in connection therewith.

20
21 (c) Students desiring to avail themselves of the
22 opportunities under this section, before enrolling for the
23 courses, shall be approved by the president of the
24 university acting with the advice of the state board of

1 nursing. No student shall be approved by the president
2 unless the student has obtained not less than a
3 baccalaureate degree as a registered nurse. Preference
4 under this section shall be given to applicants who
5 individually or whose spouse, parent or legal guardian
6 meets the requirements of W.S. 21-17-105(d)(i) through (v).

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8 (d) In addition to the requirements of subsection (c)
9 of this section, before expending any funds the board of
10 trustees shall obtain an agreement from each student
11 whereby the student agrees to authorize the state of
12 Wyoming to pay not more than ten thousand dollars
13 (\$10,000.00) for each academic semester, or not more than
14 two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) for each
15 summer session, the student is enrolled as a full-time
16 student in an approved course of study as determined by any
17 contract between the state of Wyoming and the school of
18 nursing providing that education. Students enrolled on a
19 part-time basis during an academic semester may agree to
20 receive payments reduced proportionally based upon the
21 number of credit hours for which the student is enrolled
22 for that semester, where nine (9) credit hours constitutes
23 a full-time student. The student shall agree either to:

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1 (i) Actively engage in professional practice as
2 an advanced practice registered nurse in psychiatry in
3 Wyoming for up to one (1) year for each academic year of
4 full-time attendance for which payments under this section
5 are made, but not to exceed a total of two (2) years, as
6 the board requires. Qualified work shall be granted on a
7 proportional basis; or

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9 (ii) Repay all amounts expended by the state of
10 Wyoming under this subsection on the student's education,
11 together with interest which shall begin accruing after the
12 student's residency but in no event later than four (4)
13 years after the student enters into an agreement, upon
14 terms specified by the board. However, interest shall
15 begin to accrue if the board finds that the student has
16 withdrawn from nursing school or a clinical program or is
17 otherwise not making satisfactory progress toward
18 completion of the degree or program. Money expended under
19 this subsection shall accrue at an annual interest rate
20 equal to that charged for federal Stafford loans at the
21 time interest begins to accrue, which rate shall be
22 adjusted annually to match the federal Stafford loan rate.
23 In no event shall the interest rate be greater than eight
24 percent (8%).

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2 (e) Upon recommendation of the president of the
3 university, the board of trustees may relieve a student of
4 the obligation to repay amounts expended under subsection
5 (d) of this section, in whole or in part, where repayment
6 would cause undue hardship. The university shall annually
7 report the number of students relieved from repayment under
8 this paragraph to the joint labor, health and social
9 services interim committee not later than October 1.

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11 (f) Any amounts paid by advanced practice registered
12 nurse students in psychiatry in accordance with the
13 contractual arrangements authorized under this section
14 effective July 1, 2008, and thereafter, shall be deposited
15 into a special fund designated as the advanced practice
16 registered nurse in psychiatry student fund, maintained and
17 separately accounted for by the University of Wyoming,
18 which fund shall be used solely for payments under
19 subsection (d) of this section. On or before October 1 of
20 each year, the university shall submit a report to the
21 joint labor, health and social services interim committee
22 on expenditures from the fund during the prior fiscal year.

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24 (g) For purposes of this section:

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2 (i) "Advanced practice registered nurse" means
3 as defined in W.S. 33-21-120(a)(i);

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5 (ii) "Enrolled as a full-time student" means
6 enrolled in and attending not less than nine (9) credit
7 hours per academic semester of approved studies, or as
8 determined by the approved program for summer sessions.

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10 **Section 2.** There is appropriated from the general
11 fund to the University of Wyoming four hundred twenty-five
12 thousand dollars (\$425,000.00), or as much thereof as is
13 necessary, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2006, to
14 implement the purposes of this act. The funds appropriated
15 under this section shall be used to pay the educational
16 stipends authorized under W.S. 21-17-116(d) for the
17 equivalent of not more than six (6) full-time students in
18 each year of a two (2) year advanced practice registered
19 nurse in psychiatry program and administrative expenses of
20 the University of Wyoming in administering the program
21 authorized by this act.

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2 **Section 3.** This act is effective July 1, 2006.

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(END)