

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 1007**

Introduced by Murman, 38; Cavanaugh, M., 6; Day, 49; Gragert, 40;  
Morfeld, 46; Pansing Brooks, 28.

Read first time January 12, 2022

Committee: Health and Human Services

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the Rural Health Systems and Professional
- 2 Incentive Act; to amend section 71-5668, Reissue Revised Statutes of
- 3 Nebraska; to provide for repayment of qualified educational debts by
- 4 local entities not receiving a federal match; to harmonize
- 5 provisions; and to repeal the original section.
- 6 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 71-5668, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
2 amended to read:

3 71-5668 Each loan repayment recipient shall execute an agreement  
4 with the department and a local entity. Such agreement shall be exempt  
5 from the requirements of sections 73-501 to 73-510 and shall include, at  
6 a minimum, the following terms:

7 (1) The loan repayment recipient agrees to practice his or her  
8 profession, and a physician, dentist, nurse practitioner, or physician  
9 assistant also agrees to practice an approved specialty, in a designated  
10 health profession shortage area for at least three years and to accept  
11 medicaid patients in his or her practice;

12 (2) In consideration of the agreement by the recipient, the State of  
13 Nebraska and a local entity within the designated health profession  
14 shortage area will provide equal funding for the repayment of the  
15 recipient's qualified educational debts except as provided in subdivision  
16 (5) of this section, in amounts up to thirty thousand dollars per year  
17 per recipient for physicians, dentists, and psychologists and up to  
18 fifteen thousand dollars per year per recipient for physician assistants,  
19 nurse practitioners, pharmacists, physical therapists, occupational  
20 therapists, and mental health practitioners toward qualified educational  
21 debts for up to three years. The department shall make payments directly  
22 to the recipient;

23 (3) If the loan repayment recipient discontinues practice in the  
24 shortage area prior to completion of the three-year requirement, the  
25 recipient shall repay to the state one hundred fifty percent of the total  
26 amount of funds provided to the recipient for loan repayment with  
27 interest at a rate of eight percent simple interest per year from the  
28 date of default. Upon repayment by the recipient to the department, the  
29 department shall reimburse the local entity its share of the funds which  
30 shall not be more than the local entity's share paid to the loan  
31 repayment recipient;~~and~~

1           (4) Any practice or payment obligation incurred by the loan  
2 repayment recipient under the loan repayment program is canceled in the  
3 event of the loan repayment recipient's total and permanent disability or  
4 death; and -

5           (5) In the event that federal law does not require a match by the  
6 local entity for the repayment of qualified educational debts under  
7 subdivision (2) of this section, such match shall not be required by the  
8 local entity.

9           Sec. 2. Original section 71-5668, Reissue Revised Statutes of  
10 Nebraska, is repealed.