

1 SB234  
2 105861-3  
3 By Senator Benefield  
4 RFD: Finance and Taxation Education  
5 First Read: 14-JAN-10

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4 ENGROSSED

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7 A BILL  
8 TO BE ENTITLED  
9 AN ACT

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11 To amend Sections 34-21-60, 34-21-61, 34-21-62, and  
12 34-21-63, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to graduate degree  
13 scholarships for nurses, to increase the amount of such  
14 scholarships, to require applicants to meet additional  
15 qualifications.

16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

17 Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Graduate  
18 Degree Scholarship for Nurses."

19 Section 2. Sections 34-21-60, 34-21-61, 34-21-62,  
20 and 34-21-63 of the Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read  
21 as follows:

22 "§34-21-60.

23 "There shall be established for the fiscal year  
24 ending September 30, ~~1978~~ 2010, ~~15~~ scholarships for  
25 ~~post-baccalaureate~~ graduate education of nurses. These  
26 scholarships shall be awarded to applicants from the State of  
27 Alabama at large. They shall be distributed, insofar as

1 practicable, throughout the state. The number of scholarships  
2 shall equal five percent of the total enrollment in graduate  
3 nursing programs in Alabama. Each scholarship is limited to  
4 ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

5 "§34-21-61.

6 "(a) To be eligible to receive a scholarship  
7 provided by this article, ~~a person must have been an applicant~~  
8 must meet all of the following requirements:

9 "(1) Be a resident of the State of Alabama for a  
10 period of at least one year immediately preceding the time of  
11 making application~~7~~.

12 "(2) ~~must be~~ Be a person of good character, ~~and~~  
13 shall have

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

16 "(4) ~~been~~ Be accepted for matriculation in a an  
17 Alabama graduate nursing program conducted by an accredited  
18 school of nursing, ~~must hold a baccalaureate degree in nursing~~  
19 ~~from an accredited nursing school and must~~ college or  
20 university.

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

24 "(b) Preference shall be given to applicants  
25 pursuing a career in nursing education.

26 "(c) These scholarships will be available to  
27 ~~students~~ applicants seeking master's or doctorate degrees in

1 nursing. Doctorate degrees in education are also acceptable  
2 provided the applicant holds a graduate degree in nursing.

3 "(d) Application for these scholarships shall be  
4 made to the Alabama Board of Nursing. The Board of Nursing  
5 shall receive five percent of the total appropriation to  
6 administer the scholarships.

7 "\$34-21-62.

8 "Each scholarship provided for by this article shall  
9 ~~be in the amount of \$3,800.00~~ not exceed ten thousand dollars  
10 (\$10,000) per year, payable from funds appropriated to the  
11 Alabama Board of Nursing for this purpose. Contingent upon  
12 subsequent legislative funding of this program, a scholarship  
13 may either be renewed by the Alabama Board of Nursing for the  
14 same student or awarded to another applicant for the  
15 scholarship. Criteria for the selection of recipients and  
16 awarding of the scholarships shall be established by the  
17 Alabama Board of Nursing. These criteria shall be used as  
18 guides in the selection of the scholarship recipients from the  
19 various geographical areas of the state. In case a scholarship  
20 student fails to complete the course prescribed for a graduate  
21 degree in nursing, that student shall repay the amount of any  
22 scholarship funds received hereunder to the State Treasury. In  
23 the event of the scholarship recipient's death, the obligation  
24 for funds disbursed and not repaid shall be cancelled. In the  
25 event the scholarship recipient becomes mentally or physically  
26 impaired and is unable to complete a graduate course in  
27 nursing, or has received a graduate degree but is unable to

1 complete one year of service as a nurse due to such  
2 disability, the obligation for funds disbursed and not repaid  
3 shall be cancelled.

4 "§34-21-63.

5 ~~"There is hereby appropriated each year, beginning~~  
6 ~~with the fiscal year ending September 30, 1978, to the Alabama~~  
7 ~~Board of Nursing, out of any funds in the State Treasury to~~  
8 ~~the credit of the Education Trust Fund, the sum of \$57,000.00,~~  
9 ~~to be used solely for funding scholarships provided by this~~  
10 ~~article. The appropriation provided in this section is in~~  
11 ~~addition to any appropriations heretofore made, or to be made,~~  
12 ~~to the Alabama Board of Nursing for each fiscal year. The~~  
13 ~~Legislature shall provide for annual appropriations from the~~  
14 ~~Education Trust fund for nursing scholarships. "~~

15 Section 3. This act shall become effective  
16 immediately following its passage and approval by the  
17 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

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Senate

Read for the first time and referred to the Senate  
committee on Finance and Taxation Education ..... 14-JAN-10

Read for the second time and placed on the calen-  
dar ..... 11-FEB-10

Read for the third time and passed as amended ... 18-FEB-10

Yeas 33  
Nays 0

McDowell Lee  
Secretary