



Sen. Laura Fine

**Filed: 2/15/2022**

10200SB3925sam002

LRB102 22989 NLB 36261 a

1 AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 3925

2 AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_. Amend Senate Bill 3925, AS AMENDED,  
3 by replacing everything after the enacting clause with the  
4 following:

5 "Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Human  
6 Services Professional Loan Repayment Program Act.

7 Section 5. Purpose. The purpose of the Human Services  
8 Professional Loan Repayment Program is to recruit and retain  
9 qualified human service professionals to work for  
10 community-based human services providers. Due to numerous  
11 factors, human services agencies have a high turnover rate and  
12 struggle to maintain consistent staffing levels. Many of these  
13 positions require degrees in human services-related fields of  
14 study. In addition, most human services positions require a  
15 graduate degree or postsecondary degree or certification. The  
16 higher education requirements for the human services workforce

1 often means that many students graduate with a high level of  
2 debt for a job that pays slightly above minimum wage with a  
3 great deal of stress and burnout.

4 Section 10. Definitions. In this Act:

5 "Commission" means the Illinois Student Assistance  
6 Commission.

7 "Professional" means an individual employed by a human  
8 services agency that contracts with or is grant-funded by a  
9 State agency for the purposes of providing direct or indirect  
10 services that ensure that individuals have the essential  
11 elements to build and maintain physical, emotional, and  
12 economic well-being at every phase of life.

13 "Program" means the Human Services Professional Loan  
14 Repayment Program.

15 "Qualified program" means a program that offers an  
16 associate, bachelor's, or master's degree from an accredited  
17 college or university.

18 "State agency" means the Department of Human Services, the  
19 Department of Children and Family Services, the Department of  
20 Juvenile Justice, the Department on Aging, and the Department  
21 of Public Health.

22 Section 15. Establishment of the Program. The Human  
23 Services Professional Loan Repayment Program is created and  
24 shall be administered by the Commission. Subject to

1 appropriation, the Program shall provide loan repayment  
2 assistance to eligible professionals practicing in a  
3 community-based, human services agency that contracts with or  
4 is grant-funded by a State agency.

5 Section 20. Applications. Each year for which funds have  
6 been appropriated, the Commission shall receive and consider  
7 applications for loan repayment assistance under this Act. All  
8 applications must be submitted to the Commission in a form and  
9 manner prescribed by the Commission. An eligible professional  
10 must submit any supporting documents deemed necessary by the  
11 Commission at the time of application.

12 Section 25. Award; maximum loan time; maximum amount. The  
13 Commission shall award a grant to each eligible applicant for  
14 a cumulative maximum of 4 years. The recipient of a grant  
15 awarded by the Commission under this Act must use the grant  
16 award for payments toward the recipient's educational loans  
17 from a qualified program. The amount of the grant shall not  
18 exceed: (i) \$25,000 per year for a master's degree or higher;  
19 (ii) \$15,000 per year for a bachelor's degree; (iii) \$3,000  
20 per year for a professional with an associate degree; and (iv)  
21 up to a \$5,000 per year add-on if independently licensed as a  
22 licensed clinical social worker, a licensed clinical  
23 professional counselor, a licensed practitioner of the healing  
24 arts, a licensed marriage and family therapist, a

1 board-certified behavior analyst, or a registered behavior  
2 technician.

3 Section 30. Eligibility; work requirement.

4 (a) To be eligible to receive a grant under the Human  
5 Services Professional Loan Repayment Program, the Commission  
6 must find that the eligible professional satisfies all of the  
7 following:

8 (1) The applicant is a resident of the State of  
9 Illinois.

10 (2) The applicant has worked for at least 24  
11 consecutive months as a full-time employee as a human  
12 services professional in a community-based human services  
13 agency that currently has or did have a contract with a  
14 State agency to provide human services during the duration  
15 of applicant's 24 consecutive month tenure.

16 (3) The applicant is a borrower with an outstanding  
17 balance due on an educational loan.

18 (4) The applicant has not defaulted on an educational  
19 loan.

20 (5) The applicant must remain a full-time employee as  
21 a human services professional in the same community-based  
22 human services agency for at least 12 months after  
23 receiving this grant.

24 (b) The Commission may grant preference to a previous  
25 recipient of a grant under the Program, provided that the

1 recipient continues to meet the eligibility requirements under  
2 this Section.

3 Section 35. Administration; rules. The Commission shall  
4 administer the Program and shall adopt rules not inconsistent  
5 with this Act for the Program's effective implementation.

6 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect January  
7 1, 2023."