

1 ENGROSSED

2 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

3 FOR

4 **Senate Bill No. 422**

5 (By Senators Plymale, Kessler (Mr. President), Kirkendoll,
6 Stollings and Cookman)

7 _____
8 [Originating in the Committee on Finance;
9 reported February 12, 2014.]
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11
12 A BILL to amend and reenact §18C-3-2 of the Code of West Virginia,
13 1931, as amended, relating to providing state aid for certain
14 students pursuing certain degrees; requiring a service
15 commitment to state for future students; setting forth
16 alternatives to service; requiring legislative rule; and
17 specifying rule provisions.

18 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

19 That §18C-3-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended,
20 be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

21 **ARTICLE 3. HEALTH PROFESSIONALS STUDENT LOAN PROGRAMS.**

22 **§18C-3-2. State aid for students of optometry, podiatry or
23 veterinary medicine.**

24 (a) The ~~board of trustees is hereby~~ commission is authorized
25 to enter into ~~a contract~~ contracts with an educational institution

1 or institutions outside the state that offer training in optometry,
2 podiatry or veterinary medicine by the terms of which the ~~board of~~
3 ~~trustees~~ commission may obligate itself to pay the institution,
4 within the limits of any appropriation made for the purpose, a
5 stated amount per year for each West Virginia student the
6 institution will agree to accept for training in optometry,
7 podiatry or veterinary medicine.

8 (b) Each year the board of trustees commission shall each year
9 send to any ~~such~~ appropriate institution a certified list of all
10 persons applying to the ~~trustees~~ commission for training in
11 optometry, podiatry or veterinary medicine who are bona fide
12 citizens and residents of this state prior to ~~the~~ filing of their
13 applications, and who have completed either within or without the
14 state the course of study required by the institution as a
15 prerequisite to the study of optometry, podiatry or veterinary
16 medicine.

17 (c) Upon graduation from an educational institution for study
18 of optometry, podiatry or veterinary medicine, a person who
19 receives state aid under this section is required to:

20 (1) Practice full time in this state in the field for which he
21 or she obtained financial aid, one year for every year the student
22 received aid under this section; or

23 (2) Reimburse the commission for the amount received under
24 this section.

25 (d) The commission shall propose a legislative rule in
26 accordance with the provisions of article three-a, chapter twenty-

1 nine-a of this code to implement the provisions of this section.

2 The rule shall address at least the following items:

3 (1) Eligibility and selection criteria;

4 (2) Reimbursement and repayment;

5 (3) Forgiveness options for death or disability;

6 (4) Forgiveness or deferment options for continuing education

7 or enrolling in military service;

8 (5) Terms of an agreement to which the student must agree; and

9 (6) An appeal process.

10 (e) The provisions of subsection (c) of this section apply

11 only to those students entering into an agreement to receive state

12 aid to study optometry, podiatry or veterinary medicine on or after

13 July 1, 2015.

14 (f) If considered necessary by the commission, the provisions

15 of this section may be extended by legislative rule to other

16 professional degrees which are not provided in the state, but which

17 are needed to enhance the state's economy.