

1 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

2 FOR

3 **Senate Bill No. 422**

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

6 _____
7 [Originating in the Committee on Finance;
8 reported February 12, 2014.]
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10
11 A BILL to amend and reenact §18C-3-2 of the Code of West Virginia,
12 1931, as amended, relating to providing state aid for certain
13 students pursuing certain degrees; requiring a service
14 commitment to state for future students; setting forth
15 alternatives to service; requiring legislative rule; and
16 specifying rule provisions.

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

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

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

21 **§18C-3-2. State aid for students of optometry, podiatry or**
22 **veterinary medicine.**

23 (a) ~~The board of trustees is hereby~~ commission is authorized
24 to enter into ~~a contract~~ contracts with an educational institution
25 or institutions outside the state that offer training in optometry,

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

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

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

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

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

24 (d) The commission shall propose a legislative rule in
25 accordance with the provisions of article three-a, chapter twenty-
26 nine-a of this code to implement the provisions of this section.

1 The rule shall address at least the following items:

2 (1) Eligibility and selection criteria;

3 (2) Reimbursement and repayment;

4 (3) Forgiveness options for death or disability;

5 (4) Forgiveness or deferment options for continuing education
6 in the field of study;

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

8 (6) An appeal process.

9 (e) The provisions of subsection (c) of this section apply
10 only to those students entering into an agreement to receive state
11 aid to study optometry, podiatry or veterinary medicine on or after
12 July 1, 2015.

13 (f) If considered necessary by the commission, the provisions
14 of this section may be extended by legislative rule to other
15 professional degrees which are not provided in the state, but which
16 are needed to enhance the state's economy.