

State of Arkansas

77th General Assembly

Regular Session, 1989

A Bill

HOUSE BILL

1046

By: Representative Lendall

For An Act To Be Entitled

"AN ACT TO CREATE A GRANT PROGRAM FOR NURSE MIDWIFE STUDENTS ENTERING ACCREDITED SCHOOLS; TO DESIGNATE THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS-MEDICAL SCIENCES TO ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. The purpose of the act is to improve access to qualified obstetrical care in this state by providing a means for qualified students to attend accredited schools of nurse-midwifery under grants provided by the state which may be repaid through two-years of service in medically-underserved communities in this state.

SECTION 2. There is hereby established a program to be known as "The Nurse Midwifery Program" to be administered by the University of Arkansas-Medical Sciences.

SECTION 3. The University of Arkansas-Medical Sciences may make initial awards to students who meet the following conditions:

- (a) Applicant is a registered nurse currently licensed in Arkansas.
- (b) Applicant has met the admission requirements of an educational program accredited by the American College of Nurse-Midwives in a Southern Regional Education Compact state.
- (c) The educational program to which the applicant has been admitted will make the applicant eligible to take the American College of Nurse-Midwives certification exam.

SECTION 4. The number of initial loan awards in each year shall not exceed ten (10). The total amount for each student's loan shall be \$15,000.

SECTION 5. (a) Loan recipients who work in a medically-underserved community in this state as determined by the Arkansas Department of Health upon ACNM certification and state licensure as a Certified Nurse-midwife for a minimum of two years upon completing their program of study shall have forgiven one-half (1/2) of the total loan, and related interest, for each year employed in such capacity.

(b) Loan recipients not meeting the requirements of (a) upon completing their program of study shall repay the full remaining balance plus accrued interest according to an interest and repayment schedule developed by the University of Arkansas-Medical Sciences.

SECTION 6. (a) The University of Arkansas-Medical Sciences shall administer the Nurse Midwifery Program and shall have authority to adopt rules and regulations consistent with the provisions of this act.

(b) The University of Arkansas-Medical Sciences is authorized and designated as the agent for the State of Arkansas for the purpose of entering into and administering a program of out-of-state training and education for residents of Arkansas through cooperation of the Board of Control for Southern Regional Education which was created by interstate compact with Arkansas, a signatory pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution 13, approved March 2, 1949.

SECTION 7. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

SECTION 8. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.