

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005

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SENATE BILL 779*
Education/Higher Education Committee Substitute Adopted 8/11/05

Short Title: Scholarship Loans/Paramedic-to-BSN Program.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 22, 2005

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIP LOANS TO STUDENTS ENROLLED IN
2 THE PARAMEDIC-TO-BSN PROGRAM OFFERED AT TRI-COUNTY
3 COMMUNITY COLLEGE BY WINSTON-SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY.
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5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** Article 24 of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes is amended
7 by adding a new section to read:

8 "**§ 116-209.34. Scholarship loans for certain students enrolled in the**
9 **Paramedic-to-BSN Program offered by Winston-Salem State University.**

10 (a) A scholarship loan fund is established for out-of-state students enrolled in the
11 Paramedic-to-BSN Program offered at Tri-County Community College by
12 Winston-Salem State University. The annual amount of each scholarship loan shall be
13 the difference between the in-State and the out-of-state tuition for the program. The
14 State Education Assistance Authority shall administer the fund.

15 (b) The Authority shall develop the criteria for awarding the scholarship loan,
16 and the criteria shall include all of the following:

17 (1) All recipients of scholarship loans shall be enrolled in the
18 Paramedic-to-BSN Program;

19 (2) All recipients shall enter into a legal agreement and promissory note
20 with the Authority to work full-time as a nurse in North Carolina;

21 (3) All scholarship loans shall be evidenced by notes made payable to the
22 Authority that bear interest at the rate of ten percent (10%) per annum
23 beginning upon completion of the Program or upon termination of the
24 scholarship, whichever is earlier. The Authority may forgive or reduce
25 any loan repayment if the Authority considers that extenuating
26 circumstances exist that would make repayment impossible.

27 (4) The Authority shall forgive one year of the loan for each year that a
28 recipient works full-time, within two years of completion of the
29 program, as a nurse in North Carolina; and

1 (5) Any additional criteria that the Authority considers necessary to
2 administer the program effectively.

3 (c) The Authority shall adopt rules to implement this section."

4 **SECTION 2.** There shall be a separate early registration period for in-State
5 students for the Paramedic-to-BSN Program offered at Tri-County Community College
6 by Winston-Salem State University to ensure that no out-of-state student displaces an
7 in-State student in the Program.

8 **SECTION 3.** Winston-Salem State University and Tri-County Community
9 College shall thoroughly evaluate the effects of the scholarship loans in this act on the
10 production, retention, and utilization of registered nurses in the State. They shall report
11 their findings and their recommendation on continuing the scholarship loans to the
12 Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina and the State Board of
13 Community Colleges prior to January 1, 2009.

14 **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law and expires July 31,
15 2009. Students who enter the Paramedic-to-BSN Program offered at Tri-County
16 Community College by Winston-Salem State University or enter the Program at
17 Winston-Salem State University prior to July 31, 2009, shall continue to receive the
18 scholarship loans while attending the Program so long as they remain in good standing
19 in the Paramedic-to-BSN Program and comply with the criteria established under
20 G.S. 116-209.34 for the Program.