

February 18, 2009

S 229. SCHOLARSHIP LOAN FOR RURAL SOCIAL WORKERS. Filed 2/18/09. *TO ESTABLISH THE SCHOLARSHIP LOAN FUND FOR SOCIAL WORKERS IN UNDERSERVED AREAS, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.*

Enacts new GS 116-209.31 to establish the Scholarship Loan Fund for Social Workers in Underserved Areas (Loan Fund) to provide scholarship loans to train social workers to deliver (1) mental health, (2) substance abuse, and (3) developmental disabilities services in underserved areas of North Carolina. Authorizes the State Education Assistance Authority (SEAA) to administer the Loan Fund. Directs the SEAA to award 40 loans per year to students in masters programs of social work, 10 each at the following eligible institutions: (1) UNC-Chapel Hill, (2) Appalachian State University, (3) East Carolina University, and (4) the joint program between UNC-Greensboro and NC A&T. Provides that the loan amount is limited to \$11,000 per recipient.

Provides criteria regarding awarding the loans, loan cancellation, and loan repayment. Delineates the duties and responsibilities of the SEAA in administering the Loan Fund. Authorizes the SEAA to work in consultation with the UNC Board of Governors to adopt rules to implement the act. Requires the SEAA to report annually by March 1 to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee regarding the Loan Fund and scholarship loans awarded from the fund.

Appropriates \$260,000 for 2009-10 and \$260,000 for 2010-11 from the General Fund to the UNC Board of Governors for personnel, programs, and other costs of the academic program. Also appropriates \$440,000 for 2010-11 from the General Fund to the State Education Assistance Authority for scholarship loans to implement the provisions of this act.

Effective July 1, 2009.

Intro. by Swindell.

GS 116, APPROP