RN1521813 **AP 2**

**INTRODUCED BY SENIOR ASSEMBLY MEMBER KROHN**

Legislative Counsel’s Digest

AP 2: GERIATRICS AND GERONTOLOGY: STUDENT LOAN ASSISTANCE.

UNDER EXISTING LAW, PHYSICIANS, NURSES, AND SPECIFIED SOCIAL WORKERS ARE LICENSED AND REGULATED BY VARIOUS STATE BOARDS AND PAY LICENSING AND RENEWAL FEES FOR LICENSURE, AS SPECIFIED.

THIS MEASURE WOULD MEMORIALIZE THE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR TO ENACT LEGISLATION THAT WOULD HELP FUND STUDENT LOAN ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS STUDYING GERIATRICS AND GERONTOLOGY BY IMPOSING A FEE INCREASE ON LICENSING AND RENEWAL FEES FOR PHYSICIANS, NURSES, AND SOCIAL WORKERS.

VOTE: MAJORITY.

AP 2: RELATING TO STUDENT LOAN ASSISTANCE

WHEREAS, INTEREST RATES FOR DIRECT PLUS LOANS DISBURSED ON OR AFTER JULY 1, 2014 FOR GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS SIT AT 7.21 PERCENT. FOR LOANS DISBURSED ON OR AFTER JULY 1, 2015 AND BEFORE JULY 1, 2016 THE RATE IS 6.84 PERCENT; AND

WHEREAS, DIRECT SUBSIDIZED LOANS AND DIRECT UNSUBSIDIZED LOANS ARE MADE AVAILABLE VIA FEDERAL STUDENT AID, AN OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, BUT THOSE LOANS DO NOT STIPULATE OR PROVIDE INCENTIVE FOR STUDENTS WHO WISH TO SPECIALIZE IN A FIELD THAT IS UNDERREPRESENTED; AND

WHEREAS, STUDENT LOAN DEBT IS A GROWING CRISIS IN THE UNITED STATES AND IT SERIOUSLY THREATENS OUR ECONOMIC HEALTH AND ULTIMATELY IMPACTS THE EPIDEMIOLOGIC TRANSITION THIS COUNTRY IS CURRENTLY UNDERGOING WITH THE AGING POPULATION; AND

WHEREAS, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HISTORICALLY MAKES MILLIONS OF DOLLARS ON STUDENT LOANS, EVEN FOR THOSE STUDENTS WHO ARE CLASSIFIED AS LOW-INCOME; AND

WHEREAS, FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ARE ABLE TO SECURE LOANS FROM THE GOVERNMENT AT A VERY LOW INTEREST RATE, INDICATING AN APPARENT LACK OF SENSITIVITY TO THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF STUDENTS WISHING TO ADVANCE THEIR EDUCATION IN SPECIALIZED FIELDS; AND

WHEREAS, THE CURRENT WORKFORCE IS NOT PREPARED IN NUMBERS, KNOWLEDGE, AND SKILLS TO CARE FOR THE NEEDS OF THIS RAPIDLY AGING AND DIVERSE POPULATION. IN A 2008 INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE REPORT ENTITLED “RETOOLING FOR AN AGING AMERICA,” THE AUTHORS REMIND US THAT HAVING A PREPARED AND COMPETENT WORKFORCE IS GOING TO BE CRITICAL. BY 2030, THE NUMBER OF PERSONS AGED 65 YEARS AND OLDER WILL CONSTITUTE 20 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION; AND

WHEREAS, A LARGE PROPORTION OF OLDER ADULTS HAVE MEDICAL AND SOCIETAL ISSUES WARRANTING THE ATTENTION OF A COMPETENT PROVIDER SPECIALIZING IN THE NEEDS OF THESE ELDERLY PATIENTS, AND YET ONLY A MINORITY OF INDIVIDUALS RECEIVE SPECIALTY CARE, WHICH IS OFTEN INADEQUATE. IN GENERAL, GERONTOLOGISTS ARE NOT LICENSED PROFESSIONALS AND DO NOT PROVIDE CLINICAL CARE. THIS IS A KEY REASON WHY THEIR PAY TENDS TO BE LOWER THAN OTHER SPECIALTIES AS WELL AS THE FACT THAT THEY ARE NOT BEING REIMBURSED BY MEDICARE OR MANY OTHER KINDS OF INSURANCE; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, BY THE SENIOR ASSEMBLY AND THE SENIOR SENATE, JOINTLY, THAT THE SENIOR LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AT ITS 2015 REGULAR SESSION, A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS VOTING THEREFOR, HEREBY PROPOSES THAT THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IMPOSE A FEE INCREASE OF $10 ON EXISTING LICENSURE AND LICENSE RENEWAL FEES FOR PHYSICIANS, NURSES, AND SOCIAL WORKERS TO HELP SUPPORT A LOAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. THE REVENUES WOULD BE DEPOSITED INTO A FUND FOR A GERONTOLOGY AND GERIATRIC LOAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM THAT WOULD BE ESTABLISHED AND USED TO EXCLUSIVELY SUPPORT LOAN ASSISTANCE APPLICANTS; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA PROVIDE INCENTIVES FOR RECRUITING STUDENTS INTO TRAINING FOR A CAREER IN GERONTOLOGY AND GERIATRICS TO AUGMENT THE WORKFORCE SUPPLY AND MEET THE DEMAND FOR THE NEEDS OF THE AGING POPULATION IN CALIFORNIA; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA ENCOURAGE ANY MEDICAL, NURSING, OR SOCIAL WORK STUDENT CURRENTLY STUDYING IN THE FIELD OF GERONTOLOGY AND GERIATRICS TO APPLY FOR EDUCATIONAL LOAN ASSISTANCE GRANTS; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA EXTEND PRIORITY CONSIDERATION TO LOAN ASSISTANCE GRANT APPLICANTS WHO CAN PROVIDE CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY APPROPRIATE CARE TO AREAS WITH THE GREATEST NEED; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT THE SENIOR LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA RESPECTFULLY MEMORIALIZES THE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA TO ENACT APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION THAT WOULD ADDRESS THE CONCERNS SET FORTH IN THIS MEASURE; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT A COPY OF THIS MEASURE BE TRANSMITTED TO THE SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY, THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE, AND THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.