

CHAPTER 2020-125

Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 115

An act relating to Keep Our Graduates Working Act; creating s. 120.82, F.S.; providing a short title; providing a purpose; providing definitions; prohibiting a state authority from denying a license, refusing to renew a license, or suspending or revoking a license on the basis of a delinquency or default in the payment of his or her student loan; amending s. 456.0635, F.S.; providing an exception to the requirement that certain entities prohibit a candidate from being examined for or issued, or having renewed a license, certificate, or registration to practice a health care profession if he or she is listed on a specified federal list of excluded individuals and entities; amending s. 456.072, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; repealing s. 456.0721, F.S., relating to health care practitioners in default on student loan or scholarship obligations; amending ss. 456.074 and 1009.95, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 120.82, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

120.82 Keep Our Graduates Working Act.—

(1) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Keep Our Graduates Working Act of 2020.”

(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this act is to ensure that Floridians who graduate from an accredited college or university can maintain their occupational licenses, as defined in subsection (3), and remain in the workforce while they attempt to pay off their student loan debt.

(3) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

(a) “Default” means the failure to repay a student loan according to the terms agreed to in the promissory note.

(b) “Delinquency” means the failure to make a student loan payment when it is due.

(c) “License” means any professional license, certificate, registration, or permit granted by the applicable state authority.

(d) “State authority” means any department, board, or agency with the authority to grant a license to any person in this state.

(e) “Student loan” means a federal-guaranteed or state-guaranteed loan for the purposes of postsecondary education.

(4) STUDENT LOAN DEFAULT; DELINQUENCY.—A state authority may not deny a license, refuse to renew a license, or suspend or revoke a license that it has issued to a person who is in default on or delinquent in the payment of his or her student loans solely on the basis of such default or delinquency.

Section 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.

Approved by the Governor June 29, 2020.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 29, 2020.