

1       **AN ACT** *to amend* 36.61 (1) (b); and *to create* 36.61 (1) (dm) of the statutes; **relating**  
2           **to:** the expansion of the health care provider loan assistance program to include  
3           public health professionals.

*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

**JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PREFATORY NOTE:** This bill was prepared for the Joint Legislative Council's Special Committee on Health Care Access.

This bill would expand the health care provider loan assistance program to include public health professionals. Current law provides up to \$25,000 in educational loan repayment for dental hygienists, physician assistants, nurse-midwives, or nurse practitioners who work in eligible practice areas.

4       **SECTION 1.** 36.61 (1) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

5       36.61 (1) (b) "Health care provider" means a :

6       1. A dental hygienist, physician assistant, nurse-midwife, or nurse practitioner, or  
7       public health professional.

8       2. For purposes of the expanded loan assistance program under sub. (8), a dental  
9       hygienist, physician assistant, nurse-midwife, or nurse practitioner.

10       **SECTION 2.** 36.61 (1) (dm) of the statutes is created to read:

11       36.61 (1) (dm) "Public health professional" means an employee of a local health  
12       department or the department of health services who is a dental hygienist, physician assistant,  
13       nurse-midwife, nurse practitioner, public health professional nurse, environmentalist,  
14       epidemiologist, registered environmental health professional, public health educator,

1 laboratory worker, information systems specialist, optometrist, social worker, local health  
2 officer, public health sanitarian, behavioral health provider, or nutritionist.

3 **SECTION 3. Fiscal changes.**

4 (1) In the schedule under section 20.005 (3) of the statutes for the appropriation to the  
5 University of Wisconsin system under section 20.285 (1) (ks) of the statutes, as affected by  
6 the acts of 2011, the dollar amount is increased by [insert amount] for the state fiscal year in  
7 which this subsection takes effect to make public health professionals eligible for the health  
8 care provider loan assistance program.

9 (END)