1	A bill to be entitled					
2	An act relating to Keep Our Graduates Working Act;					
3	creating s. 120.82, F.S.; providing a short title;					
4	providing a purpose; providing definitions;					
5	prohibiting a state authority from suspending or					
6	revoking a person's professional license, certificate,					
7	registration, or permit solely on the basis of a					
8	delinquency or default in the payment of his or her					
9	student loan; amending s. 456.072, F.S.; conforming					
10	provisions to changes made by the act; repealing s.					
11	456.0721, F.S., relating to health care practitioners					
12	in default on student loan or scholarship obligations;					
13	amending ss. 456.074 and 1009.95, F.S.; conforming					
14	provisions to changes made by the act; providing an					
15	effective date.					
16						
17	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:					
18						
19	Section 1. Section 120.82, Florida Statutes, is created to					
20	read:					
21	120.82 Keep Our Graduates Working Act					
22	(1) SHORT TITLEThis section may be cited as the "Keep					
23	Our Graduates Working Act of 2020."					
24	(2) PURPOSE The purpose of this act is to ensure that					
25	Floridians who graduate from an accredited college or university					
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26	can maintain their occupational licenses, as defined in					
27	subsection (3), and remain in the workforce while they attempt					
28	to pay off their student loan debt.					
29	(3) DEFINITIONSAs used in this section, the term:					
30	(a) "Default" means the failure to repay a student loan					
31	according to the terms agreed to in the promissory note.					
32	(b) "Delinquency" means the failure to make a student loan					
33	payment when it is due.					
34	(c) "License" means any professional license, certificate,					
35	registration, or permit granted by the applicable state					
36	authority.					
37	(d) "State authority" means any department, board, or					
38	agency with the authority to grant a license to any person in					
39	this state.					
40	(e) "Student loan" means a federal-guaranteed or state-					
41	guaranteed loan for the purposes of postsecondary education.					
42	(4) STUDENT LOAN DEFAULT; DELINQUENCYA state authority					
43	may not suspend or revoke a license that it has issued to a					
44	person who is in default on or delinquent in the payment of his					
45	or her student loans solely on the basis of such default or					
46	delinquency.					
47	Section 2. Paragraph (k) of subsection (1) of section					
48	456.072, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:					
49	456.072 Grounds for discipline; penalties; enforcement					
50	(1) The following acts shall constitute grounds for which					
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51 the disciplinary actions specified in subsection (2) may be 52 taken:

53 (k) Failing to perform any statutory or legal obligation 54 placed upon a licensee. For purposes of this section, failing to 55 repay a student loan issued or quaranteed by the state or the 56 Federal Government in accordance with the terms of the loan is 57 not or failing to comply with service scholarship obligations shall be considered a failure to perform a statutory or legal 58 obligation, and the minimum disciplinary action imposed shall be 59 60 a suspension of the license until new payment terms are agreed 61 upon or the scholarship obligation is resumed, followed by 62 probation for the duration of the student loan or remaining 63 scholarship obligation period, and a fine equal to 10 percent of 64 the defaulted loan amount. Fines collected shall be deposited into the Medical Quality Assurance Trust Fund. 65 66 Section 3. Section 456.0721, Florida Statutes, is 67 repealed. 68 Section 4. Subsection (4) of section 456.074, Florida 69 Statutes, is amended to read:

70 456.074 Certain health care practitioners; immediate
71 suspension of license.-

72 (4) Upon receipt of information that a Florida-licensed 73 health care practitioner has defaulted on a student loan issued 74 or guaranteed by the state or the Federal Government, the

75 department shall notify the licensee by certified mail that he

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or she shall be subject to immediate suspension of license 76 77 unless, within 45 days after the date of mailing, the licensee 78 provides proof that new payment terms have been agreed upon by 79 all parties to the loan. The department shall issue an emergency 80 order suspending the license of any licensee who, after 45 days 81 following the date of mailing from the department, has failed to 82 provide such proof. Production of such proof shall not prohibit the department from proceeding with disciplinary action against 83 the licensee pursuant to s. 456.073. 84 85 Section 5. Subsection (1) of s. 1009.95, Florida Statutes, 86 is amended to read: 87 1009.95 Delinquent accounts.-The Department of Education is directed to exert every 88 (1)89 lawful and reasonable effort to collect all delinquent unpaid and uncanceled scholarship loan notes, student loan notes, and 90 defaulted guaranteed loan notes; however, in all such efforts, 91 92 the department shall comply with s. 120.82. 93 Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.

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