

HOUSE BILL NO. 1925

102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE MORSE.

3874H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 191, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to a rural health care professional grant program.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 191, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be
2 known as section 191.620, to read as follows:

191.620. 1. For purposes of this section, the following terms mean:

2 (1) "Chiropractor", a chiropractor licensed under chapter 331;

3 (2) "Dentist", a dentist licensed and registered under chapter 332;

4 (3) "Department", the department of health and senior services;

5 (4) "Health care professional", a primary care physician, psychiatrist, registered
6 nurse, dentist, or chiropractor;

7 (5) "Primary care physician", a physician licensed and registered under chapter
8 334 engaged in general or family practice;

9 (6) "Program", the rural health care professional grant program established in
10 subsection 2 of this section;

11 (7) "Psychiatrist", the same meaning given to the term in section 632.005;

12 (8) "Registered nurse", the same meaning given to the term in section 335.016;

13 (9) "Rural county", a county in Missouri with fewer than thirty-five thousand
14 inhabitants.

15 2. Subject to appropriation, the department shall establish a rural health care
16 professional grant program to provide incentives to health care professionals to practice
17 and reside in rural counties. The department shall award grants to eligible health care

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets ~~thus~~ in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

18 professionals on the basis of available funds in the following order of descending
19 priority:

20 (1) Primary care physicians;

21 (2) Dentists;

22 (3) Registered nurses;

23 (4) Psychiatrists; and

24 (5) Chiropractors.

25 3. Any health care professional who begins practice as a health care professional
26 in a rural county after August 28, 2024, who resides in such rural county, and who is
27 willing to enter into a grant agreement under the terms outlined in subsection 4 of this
28 section shall be eligible to receive a grant under this section. The department shall post
29 on its website the eligibility criteria outlined in this section, the contents of the grant
30 application, and the procedures and timelines by which health care professionals may
31 apply for grants.

32 4. The department shall enter into a grant agreement with each health care
33 professional to whom it awards a grant under this section. The grant agreement shall be
34 in writing and shall contain:

35 (1) A provision that the health care professional agrees to reside and practice as
36 a health care professional in a rural county for a continuous five-year period and the
37 state agrees to pay the health care professional twenty thousand dollars each year of
38 such five-year period, with such period of residence and practice to begin immediately;

39 (2) A provision that any obligations arising out of the agreement entered into
40 under subdivision (1) of this subsection are contingent upon funds being appropriated
41 for grant payments;

42 (3) A provision identifying the rural county where the health care professional
43 will practice and reside;

44 (4) A statement of the damages to which the state is entitled for the health care
45 professional's breach of the grant agreement; and

46 (5) Such other statements of the rights and liabilities of the department and of
47 the health care professional not inconsistent with this section.

48 5. If an individual breaches the written grant agreement by failing either to
49 begin the five-year period of residence and practice or to complete the five-year period
50 of residence and practice, the state shall be entitled to recover from the individual an
51 amount equal to the sum of:

52 (1) The total of the amounts paid by the state to the individual under the grant
53 agreement;

54 **(2) An amount equal to any damages incurred by the department as a result of**
55 **the breach; and**

56 **(3) Any legal fees or associated costs incurred by the department or the state in**
57 **the collection of damages.**

58 **6. This section shall not be construed to require the department to enter into**
59 **grant agreements with health care professionals who are eligible for grants under this**
60 **section if state funds are not available for such purpose.**

61 **7. The total amount of all grants awarded under this section shall not exceed one**
62 **million dollars.**

63 **8. (1) There is hereby created in the state treasury the "Rural Health Care**
64 **Professional Grant Program Fund", which shall consist of moneys appropriated to it by**
65 **the general assembly. The state treasurer shall be custodian of the fund. In accordance**
66 **with sections 30.170 and 30.180, the state treasurer may approve disbursements. The**
67 **fund shall be a dedicated fund and, upon appropriation, moneys in the fund shall be**
68 **used solely for awarding grants and administering the program under this section.**

69 **(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080 to the contrary, any moneys**
70 **remaining in the fund at the end of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the**
71 **general revenue fund.**

72 **(3) The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund in the same manner as**
73 **other funds are invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be**
74 **credited to the fund.**

75 **9. The department may promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this**
76 **section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is**
77 **created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it**
78 **complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable,**
79 **section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any of the powers**
80 **vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the**
81 **effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional,**
82 **then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August**
83 **28, 2024, shall be invalid and void.**

84 **10. The provisions of this section shall expire August 28, 2034.**

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