

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 March 28, 2024

3 ENGROSSED HOUSE
4 BILL NO. 1696

By: McEntire, Deck, and Munson
of the House

5 and

6 Stanley of the Senate

7
8
9 An Act relating to medical loan repayment; amending
10 63 O.S. 2021, Section 1-2721, as amended by Section
11 3, Chapter 407, O.S.L. 2022 (63 O.S. Supp. 2023,
12 Section 1-2721), which relates to administration
13 qualifications, disbursements, review, and reports of
14 the Oklahoma Medical Loan Repayment Program;
15 modifying definition; including certified nurse
16 practitioners for medical loan repayment; amending 63
17 O.S. 2021, Section 1-2722, as amended by Section 4,
18 Chapter 407, O.S.L. 2022 (63 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section
19 1-2722), which relates to amount of award and
20 determination of the Oklahoma Medical Loan Repayment
21 Program; including physician assistant and certified
22 nurse practitioner for award; and providing an
23 effective date.

24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 63 O.S. 2021, Section 1-2721, as
amended by Section 3, Chapter 407, O.S.L. 2022 (63 O.S. Supp. 2023,
Section 1-2721), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1-2721. A. 1. The Health Care Workforce Training
Commission shall administer the Oklahoma Medical Loan Repayment
Program.

1 2. For the purposes of this section, "primary care physicians"
2 shall mean physicians practicing in family medicine, geriatrics,
3 general internal medicine, general pediatrics,
4 obstetrics/gynecology, ~~or~~ emergency medicine, or general surgery.

5 3. For the purposes of this section, "health center" shall mean
6 a ~~federally qualified health center~~ Federally Qualified Health
7 Center as defined by 42 U.S.C., Section 1905(1)(2)(B).

8 4. For the purposes of this section, "teaching health center"
9 shall mean a health center that supports the residencies of primary
10 care physicians within the operations of the health center.

11 5. The ~~Program~~ program, depending upon and limited to available
12 funding, shall provide educational loan repayment assistance to
13 Oklahoma_licensed primary care physicians ~~and~~, physician assistants,
14 and certified nurse practitioners who agree to establish a practice
15 in a community located in Oklahoma approved by the Commission.

16 6. Each award of educational loan repayment assistance shall be
17 for a contracted period and shall be distributed to the participant
18 by drafts made payable to the participant at the end of each
19 contract year with disbursements not to exceed an amount to be
20 established annually by the Commission. Prior to any disbursement,
21 the Commission shall certify and properly review reports submitted
22 by the participating physician ~~or~~, physician assistant, or certified
23 nurse practitioner detailing performance of activities in accordance
24 with the ~~Program~~ program.

1 7. The Commission shall review the performance in the ~~Program~~
2 program of the participating physician ~~or,~~ physician assistant, or
3 certified nurse practitioner and determine whether an award may be
4 granted for additional years pursuant to rules promulgated by the
5 Commission.

6 B. The physicians ~~and,~~ physician assistants, and certified
7 nurse practitioners entering the ~~Program~~ program each year shall
8 agree to provide medical care and services in areas designated by
9 the Commission to provide medical care and services to Medicaid
10 recipients as authorized by the Oklahoma Health Care Authority.

11 C. A physician ~~or,~~ physician assistant, or certified nurse
12 practitioner shall be eligible to participate in the loan repayment
13 program if the individual:

14 1. Is a physician ~~that,~~ physician assistant, or certified nurse
15 practitioner who holds a current Oklahoma medical license;

16 2. Is a new primary care graduate physician ~~or,~~ physician
17 assistant, or certified nurse practitioner. Preference will be
18 given to graduates of the primary care residency programs affiliated
19 with the Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine,
20 the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine, and the teaching
21 hospitals affiliated with both schools of medicine and teaching
22 health centers located in this state; or

1 3. Is a current practicing physician ~~or~~, physician assistant,
2 or certified nurse practitioner and has met criteria established by
3 the Commission.

4 D. The Commission may accept donations of public or private
5 funds to assist in funding the Oklahoma Medical Loan Repayment
6 Program. The Commission may, at its discretion, contract with other
7 public entities and nonprofit corporations for the endowment,
8 management and administration of such funds.

9 E. The Commission shall present a report on the operation of
10 the ~~Program~~ program to the Governor, the Speaker of the Oklahoma
11 House of Representatives, and the President Pro Tempore of the
12 Oklahoma State Senate within one (1) month of the beginning of each
13 regular session of the Legislature, including but not limited to the
14 progress made in accomplishing the goal of the ~~Program~~ program.

15 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 63 O.S. 2021, Section 1-2722, as
16 amended by Section 4, Chapter 407, O.S.L. 2022 (63 O.S. Supp. 2023,
17 Section 1-2722), is amended to read as follows:

18 Section 1-2722. The amount of the award of educational loan
19 repayment assistance shall not exceed any maximum or minimum amount
20 as promulgated by rules of the Health Care Workforce Training
21 Commission pursuant to the Oklahoma Medical Loan Repayment Program.
22 The actual amount of the award shall be based upon a determination
23 of:
24

1 1. Actual funds available to the ~~Program~~ program for
2 expenditure; and

3 2. The existing student loan indebtedness of the participating
4 physician, physician assistant, or certified nurse practitioner.

5 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2024.

6 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
7 March 28, 2024 - DO PASS

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