

An Act

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1696

By: McEntire, Deck, and Munson
of the House

and

Stanley of the Senate

An Act relating to medical loan repayment; amending 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), which relates to administration qualifications, disbursements, review, and reports of the Oklahoma Medical Loan Repayment Program; modifying definition; including certified nurse practitioners for medical loan repayment; amending 63 O.S. 2021, Section 1-2722, as amended by Section 4, Chapter 407, O.S.L. 2022 (63 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 1-2722), which relates to amount of award and determination of the Oklahoma Medical Loan Repayment Program; including physician assistant and certified nurse practitioner for award; and providing an effective date.

SUBJECT: Medical loan repayment

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.

2. For the purposes of this section, "primary care physicians" shall mean physicians practicing in family medicine, geriatrics,

general internal medicine, general pediatrics, obstetrics/gynecology, ~~or~~ emergency medicine, or general surgery.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Passed the House of Representatives the 6th day of March, 2024.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

Passed the Senate the 23rd day of April, 2024.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this _____
day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this _____
day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this _____
day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____