

# An Act

ENROLLED SENATE  
BILL NO. 1179

By: Smalley of the Senate

and

Cox and Sherrer of the  
House

An Act relating to the Oklahoma Medical Loan Repayment Program; amending 63 O.S. 2011, Section 1-2721, which relates to physician requirements; expanding definitions to include certain terms; broadening eligibility criteria for certain payments; removing certain limitation; removing certain requirements relating to agreements by participating physicians; permitting Physician Manpower Training Commission to accept certain funds and contract for certain purposes; amending 63 O.S. 2011, Section 1-2723, which relates to program funding; authorizing payment to health centers for certain programs; and providing an effective date.

SUBJECT: Oklahoma Medical Loan Repayment Program

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 63 O.S. 2011, Section 1-2721, is amended to read as follows:

Section 1-2721. A. 1. The Physician Manpower 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.

3. For the purposes of this section, "health center" shall mean a 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.

~~3.~~ 5. The Program, depending upon and limited to available funding, shall provide educational loan repayment assistance to Oklahoma licensed primary care physicians who agree to establish a practice in a community located in Oklahoma approved by the Commission.

~~4.~~ 6. Each award 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 detailing performance of activities in accordance with the Program.

~~5.~~ 7. ~~At the conclusion of an initial two year period, the~~ The Commission shall review the performance in the Program of the participating physician and determine whether an award may be granted for additional years pursuant to rules promulgated by the Commission.

B. The physicians entering the 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 shall be eligible to participate in the loan repayment program if the physician:

1. Is licensed to practice medicine in Oklahoma;

2. Is a new primary care residency graduate. 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 and has met criteria established by the Commission.

D. ~~The physician shall agree to practice in the designated need areas identified by the Commission for no fewer than two (2) consecutive years as a condition of the loan repayment. If the physician does not fulfill the service obligation, the Commission may collect from the participant the entire amount of loan payments made under the Program plus interest~~ The Commission may accept donations of public or private funds to assist in funding the Medical Loan Repayment Program. The Commission may, at its discretion, contract with other public entities and non-profit corporations for the endowment, management and administration of such funds.

E. The Commission shall present a report on the operation of the Program to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President Pro Tempore of the 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.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 63 O.S. 2011, Section 1-2723, is amended to read as follows:

Section 1-2723. A. The Physician Manpower Training Commission shall have the option of utilizing available funding in excess of the amount necessary to fund the Oklahoma Medical Loan Repayment Program described in Section 1-2721 of ~~Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title to fund new or expanded primary care residency programs in rural and underserved areas of the state. Such new or expanded primary care residency program funding shall include but not be limited to:

1. Payments to hospitals or teaching health centers desiring to establish new primary care residency programs. Such payments shall be made to cover the costs of salaries, benefits and educational costs of residents in training at the facility;

2. Payments to hospitals or teaching health centers with existing primary residency programs desiring to expand the number of residents participating in those programs. Such payments shall be made to cover the costs of salaries, benefits and educational costs of residents in training at the facility; or

3. Payments of stipends to residents of new or existing primary care residency programs in exchange for a commitment to serve in a rural or underserved area of the state, including but not limited to areas served by health centers, as designated by the Commission.

B. Provisions of this section shall be subject to the promulgated rules of the Commission.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2016.

Passed the Senate the 8th day of March, 2016.

  
Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the 31st day of March, 2016.

  
Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this 4<sup>th</sup>

day of April, 20 16, at 3:30 o'clock P M.

By: Audrey Lockwell

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this 7<sup>th</sup>

day of April, 20 16, at 3:25 o'clock P M.

  
Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this 7<sup>th</sup>

day of April, 20 16, at 3:43 o'clock P M.

By: Audrey Lockwell