

3 Senate Bill No. 1737
4 As Amended

5 SENATE BILL NO. 1737 - By: HOBSON and COFFEE of the Senate and
6 BALKMAN of the House.

7 [public health and safety - Oklahoma Dental Loan Repayment
8 Act - codification - effective date]

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

10 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
11 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-2710 of Title 63, unless there
12 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

13 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma Dental
14 Loan Repayment Act".

15 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
16 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-2711 of Title 63, unless there
17 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

18 A. The Legislature recognizes that there is a need to:

19 1. Upgrade the availability of quality dental care services for
20 the people of Oklahoma;

21 2. Improve the balance of dental manpower distribution in the
22 state by geographic location; and

23 3. Increase access to dental care to those who are dependent on
24 the state for necessary dental care.

1 B. The purpose of the Oklahoma Dental Loan Repayment Act shall
2 be to:

3 1. Increase the number of dentists serving and caring for those
4 dependent upon the state for dental care; and

5 2. Ensure that dental care and services are accessible
6 throughout the state, and specifically, that quality dental care and
7 services be accessible to underserved dental areas in rural and
8 metropolitan areas of the state, and to those dependent upon the
9 state for dental care.

10 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
11 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-2712 of Title 63, unless there
12 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

13 A. 1. The State Department of Health shall administer the
14 Oklahoma Dental Loan Repayment Program.

15 2. The Program, depending upon available funding, shall provide
16 educational loan repayment assistance for up to five Oklahoma
17 licensed dentists per year.

18 3. Each award shall be for a contracted period and shall be
19 distributed to the participant by drafts made payable to the
20 participant and the appropriate loan agency in equal monthly
21 disbursements, not to exceed Twenty-five Thousand Dollars
22 (\$25,000.00) per year for a five-year period. Prior to any
23 disbursement, the Department shall certify and properly review

1 monthly reports submitted by the participating dentist detailing
2 performance of activities in accordance with the Oklahoma Dental
3 Loan Repayment Act.

4 4. At the conclusion of the two-year period, the Department
5 shall review the performance in the Program of the participating
6 dentist and determine whether an award may be granted for an
7 additional three (3) years pursuant to rules promulgated by the
8 Department.

9 B. Four dentists each year entering the Program shall agree to
10 provide dental care and services in a designated dental health
11 professional shortage area (DHPSA) of the state and agree to provide
12 dental care and services to Medicaid recipients as authorized by the
13 Oklahoma Health Care Authority. The Department shall be responsible
14 for ensuring that at least thirty percent (30%) of the patients
15 treated by the dentist will be Medicaid recipients.

16 C. One dentist each year entering the program shall agree to
17 teach at the University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry.

18 D. A dentist shall be eligible to participate in the loan
19 repayment Program if the dentist:

- 20 1. Is a new dental school graduate. Preference will be given
21 to graduates of the University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry;
- 22 2. Is licensed to practice dentistry in Oklahoma; and
- 23 3. Has demonstrated financial need.

1 E. The dentist shall execute a contract with the Department to
2 provide dental services in a designated Dental Health Professional
3 Shortage Area and agree that thirty percent (30%) of his or her
4 patients will be Medicaid recipients.

5 F. If the dentist does not fulfill the service obligation, the
6 Department may collect from the participant the entire amount of
7 loan payments made under the Program plus interest.

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

14 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
15 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-2713 of Title 63, unless there
16 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

17 The amount of the award of educational loan repayment assistance
18 shall not exceed any maximum or minimum amount as promulgated by
19 rules of the State Board of Health pursuant to the Oklahoma Dental
20 Loan Repayment Act. The actual amount of the award shall be based
21 upon a determination of:

22 1. Actual funds available to the Oklahoma Dental Loan Repayment
23 Program for expenditure; and

1 2. The existing student loan indebtedness of the participating
2 dentist.

3 SECTION 5. This act shall become effective November 1, 2006.

4 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, dated 2-15-06 - DO
5 PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.