

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1043

By: Sears, Hickman, Proctor,
Inman, Cox, Wright
(Harold), Cannaday, Roan,
Walker, Tibbs, Kiesel,
Hoskin and Shoemake of the
House

and

Crain and Ivester of the
Senate

An Act relating to public health and safety; creating the Oklahoma Medical Loan Repayment Program; defining term; stating purpose of act; providing condition for loan repayment; providing for disbursement of awards; directing review of performance after certain period of time; providing for certain agreement by physicians; specifying eligibility requirements; providing for nonfullfillment of obligation; requiring report; specifying requirements for determination of award amount; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-2720 of Title 63, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

Sections 1 through 3 of this act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma Medical Loan Repayment Program".

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-2721 of Title 63, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

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. The Program, depending upon available funding, shall provide educational loan repayment assistance for up to six Oklahoma licensed primary care physicians per year who agree to establish a practice in a community located in Oklahoma approved by the Commission.

4. Each award shall be for a contracted period and shall be distributed to the participant by drafts made payable to the participant on an annual basis with disbursements not to exceed Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) per year for a five-year period. 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 Oklahoma Medical Loan Repayment Program.

5. At the conclusion of an initial two-year period, the Commission shall review the performance in the Program of the participating physician and determine whether an award may be granted for an additional three (3) 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; and

2. Is a new medical school graduate. Preference will be given to graduates of the Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine and the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine; 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.

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 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-2722 of Title 63, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

The amount of the award of educational loan repayment assistance shall not exceed any maximum or minimum amount as promulgated by rules of the Physician Manpower 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 Oklahoma Medical Loan Repayment Program for expenditure; and

2. The existing student loan indebtedness of the participating physician.

SECTION 4. This act shall become effective November 1, 2010.

Passed the House of Representatives the 17th day of May, 2010.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

Passed the Senate the 21st day of May, 2010.

Presiding Officer of the Senate