

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 55th Legislature (2016)

3 SENATE BILL 1179

By: Smalley

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to the Oklahoma Medical Loan
8 Repayment Program; amending 63 O.S. 2011, Section 1-
9 2721, which relates to physician requirements;
10 expanding definitions to include certain terms;
11 broadening eligibility criteria for certain payments;
12 amending 63 O.S. 2011, Section 1-2723, which relates
13 to program funding; authorizing payment to health
14 centers for certain programs; and providing an
15 effective date.

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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.

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

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

7 ~~3.~~ 5. The Program, depending upon and limited to available
8 funding, shall provide educational loan repayment assistance to
9 Oklahoma licensed primary care physicians who agree to establish a
10 practice in a community located in Oklahoma approved by the
11 Commission.

12 ~~4.~~ 6. Each award shall be for a contracted period and shall be
13 distributed to the participant by drafts made payable to the
14 participant at the end of each contract year with disbursements not
15 to exceed an amount to be established annually by the Commission.
16 Prior to any disbursement, the Commission shall certify and properly
17 review reports submitted by the participating physician detailing
18 performance of activities in accordance with the Program.

19 ~~5.~~ 7. At the conclusion of an initial two-year period, the
20 Commission shall review the performance in the Program of the
21 participating physician and determine whether an award may be
22 granted for additional years pursuant to rules promulgated by the
23 Commission.
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1 B. The physicians entering the Program each year shall agree to
2 provide medical care and services in areas designated by the
3 Commission to provide medical care and services to Medicaid
4 recipients as authorized by the Oklahoma Health Care Authority.

5 C. A physician shall be eligible to participate in the loan
6 repayment program if the physician:

7 1. Is licensed to practice medicine in Oklahoma;

8 2. Is a new primary care residency graduate. Preference will
9 be given to graduates of the primary care residency programs
10 affiliated with the Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic
11 Medicine, the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine and the
12 teaching hospitals affiliated with both schools of medicine, and
13 teaching health centers located in this state; or

14 3. Is a current practicing physician and has met criteria
15 established by the Commission.

16 D. The physician shall agree to practice in the designated need
17 areas identified by the Commission for no fewer than two (2)
18 consecutive years as a condition of the loan repayment. If the
19 physician does not fulfill the service obligation, the Commission
20 may collect from the participant the entire amount of loan payments
21 made under the Program plus interest.

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

1 one (1) month of the beginning of each regular session of the
2 Legislature, including but not limited to the progress made in
3 accomplishing the goal of the Program.

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

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

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

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

23 3. Payments of stipends to residents of new or existing primary
24 care residency programs in exchange for a commitment to serve in a

1 rural or underserved area of the state, including but not limited to
2 areas served by health centers, as designated by the Commission.

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

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

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