

1 ENGROSSED SENATE
2 BILL NO. 345

By: Garvin of the Senate

3 and

4 McEntire of the House

5
6 An Act relating to the Oklahoma Dental Loan Repayment
7 Program; amending 63 O.S. 2011, Section 1-2712, as
8 last amended by Section 1, Chapter 165, O.S.L. 2014
9 (63 O.S. Supp. 2020, Section 1-2712), which relates
10 to administration of program; modifying distribution
11 method of award; and providing an effective date.

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

13 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 63 O.S. 2011, Section 1-2712, as
14 last amended by Section 1, Chapter 165, O.S.L. 2014 (63 O.S. Supp.
15 2020, Section 1-2712), is amended to read as follows:

16 Section 1-2712. A. 1. The State Department of Health shall
17 administer the Oklahoma Dental Loan Repayment Program.

18 2. The Program, depending upon available funding, shall provide
19 educational loan repayment assistance for up to a total of twenty-
20 five full-time equivalent Oklahoma licensed dentists per year,
21 including new and continuing contract renewable participants.

22 3. Each award shall be for a contracted period and shall be
23 distributed to the participant by drafts made payable to the
24 participant ~~and the~~ for deposit to an appropriate loan agency in
equal monthly disbursements, not to exceed Fifty Thousand Dollars

1 (\$50,000.00) per year for a maximum five-year period. Prior to any
2 disbursement, the Department shall certify and properly review
3 monthly reports submitted by the participating dentist detailing
4 performance of activities in accordance with the Oklahoma Dental
5 Loan Repayment Act.

6 4. At the conclusion of the minimum service obligation, the
7 Department shall review the performance in the Program of the
8 participating dentist and determine whether an award may be granted
9 for an additional period not to exceed a total participation in the
10 Program of five (5) years pursuant to rules promulgated by the
11 Department.

12 B. Any dentist entering the Program each year as a nonfaculty
13 participant shall agree to provide dental care and services to
14 Medicaid recipients as authorized by the Oklahoma Health Care
15 Authority. The Department shall be responsible for ensuring that at
16 least thirty percent (30%) of the patients treated by the dentist
17 will be Medicaid recipients.

18 1. Any general practice dentist entering the Program each year
19 as a nonfaculty participant shall agree to provide dental care and
20 services in a designated Dental Health Professional Shortage Area
21 (DHPSA) of this state.

22 2. Any dentist licensed to practice as a Pediatric Dentistry
23 Specialist as defined by the State Dental Act or any dentist
24 practicing in a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), FQHC look-

1 alike, county health department, or city-county health department
2 may be exempt from the requirement to practice in a Dental Health
3 Professional Shortage Area (DHPSA).

4 C. A dentist entering the Program as a faculty participant
5 shall agree to teach at the University of Oklahoma College of
6 Dentistry. In the event there are no appropriate faculty
7 applicants, the Program may award additional nonfaculty dentists.

8 D. A dentist shall be eligible to participate in the Program if
9 the dentist:

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

14 E. The dentist shall execute a contract with the Department to
15 provide dental services pursuant to the terms of the contract and in
16 accordance with rules promulgated by the Department.

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

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

3 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2021.

4 Passed the Senate the 2nd day of March, 2021.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

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8 Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____,
9 2021.

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Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

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