

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 1st Session of the 58th Legislature (2021)

4 ENGROSSED SENATE
5 BILL NO. 345

By: Garvin of the Senate

and

6 McEntire and **West (Josh)** of
7 the House

8
9
10 **[Oklahoma Dental Loan Repayment Program - modifying**
11 **distribution method of award - effective date]**

12
13
14 ~~BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:~~

15 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 63 O.S. 2011, Section 1-2712, as
16 last amended by Section 1, Chapter 165, O.S.L. 2014 (63 O.S. Supp.
17 2020, Section 1-2712), is amended to read as follows:

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

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

1 3. Each award shall be for a contracted period and shall be
2 distributed to the participant by drafts made payable to the
3 participant ~~and the~~ for deposit to an appropriate loan agency in
4 equal monthly disbursements, not to exceed Fifty Thousand Dollars
5 (\$50,000.00) per year for a maximum five-year period. Prior to any
6 disbursement, the Department shall certify and properly review
7 monthly reports submitted by the participating dentist detailing
8 performance of activities in accordance with the Oklahoma Dental
9 Loan Repayment Act.

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

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

22 1. Any general practice dentist entering the Program each year
23 as a nonfaculty participant shall agree to provide dental care and
24

1 services in a designated Dental Health Professional Shortage Area
2 (DHPSA) of this state.

3 2. Any dentist licensed to practice as a Pediatric Dentistry
4 Specialist as defined by the State Dental Act or any dentist
5 practicing in a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), FQHC look-
6 alike, county health department, or city-county health department
7 may be exempt from the requirement to practice in a Dental Health
8 Professional Shortage Area (DHPSA).

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

13 D. A dentist shall be eligible to participate in the Program if
14 the dentist:

15 1. Is a new dental school graduate. Preference will be given
16 to graduates of the University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry;

17 2. Is licensed to practice dentistry in Oklahoma; and

18 3. Has demonstrated financial need.

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

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

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

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

8
9 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND BUDGET, dated
10 04/08/2021 - DO PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24