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February 18, 2021

By: Garvin of the Senate

and

McEntire of the House

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

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

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

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

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

3. Each award shall be for a contracted period and shall be distributed to the participant by drafts made payable to the

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

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

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

20 1. Any general practice dentist entering the Program each year
21 as a nonfaculty participant shall agree to provide dental care and
22 services in a designated Dental Health Professional Shortage Area
23 (DHPSA) of this state.
24

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

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

11 D. A dentist shall be eligible to participate in the Program if
12 the dentist:

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

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

16 3. Has demonstrated financial need.

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

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

23 G. The Department shall present a report on the operation of
24 the Program to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of

1 Representatives, and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate within
2 one (1) month of the beginning of each regular session of the
3 Legislature, including but not limited to the progress made in
4 accomplishing the goal of the Program.

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

6 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
7 February 18, 2021 - DO PASS
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