

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
4 FOR

5 HOUSE BILL NO. 1696

6 By: McEntire

7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

8 An Act relating to medical loan repayment; amending  
9 63 O.S. 2021, Section 1-2721, as amended by Section  
10 3, Chapter 407, O.S.L. 2022 (63 O.S. Supp. 2023,  
11 Section 1-2721), which relates to administration  
12 qualifications, disbursements, review, and reports of  
13 the Oklahoma Medical Loan Repayment Program;  
14 modifying definition; including certified nurse  
15 practitioners for medical loan repayment; amending 63  
16 O.S. 2021, Section 1-2722, as amended by Section 4,  
17 Chapter 407, O.S.L. 2022 (63 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section  
18 1-2722), which relates to amount of award and  
19 determination of the Oklahoma Medical Loan Repayment  
20 Program; including physician assistant and certified  
21 nurse practitioner for award; and providing an  
22 effective date.

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

24 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 63 O.S. 2021, Section 1-2721, as  
amended by Section 3, Chapter 407, O.S.L. 2022 (63 O.S. Supp. 2023,  
Section 1-2721), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1-2721. A. 1. The Health Care Workforce Training  
Commission shall administer the Oklahoma Medical Loan Repayment  
Program.

1           2. For the purposes of this section, "primary care physicians"  
2 shall mean physicians practicing in family medicine, geriatrics,  
3 general internal medicine, general pediatrics,  
4 obstetrics/gynecology, ~~or~~ emergency medicine, or general surgery.

5           3. For the purposes of this section, "health center" shall mean  
6 a ~~federally qualified health center~~ Federally Qualified Health  
7 Center as defined by 42 U.S.C., Section 1905(1)(2)(B).

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

11           5. The ~~Program~~ program, depending upon and limited to available  
12 funding, shall provide educational loan repayment assistance to  
13 Oklahoma\_licensed primary care physicians ~~and~~, physician assistants,  
14 and certified nurse practitioners who agree to establish a practice  
15 in a community located in Oklahoma approved by the Commission.

16           6. Each award of educational loan repayment assistance shall be  
17 for a contracted period and shall be distributed to the participant  
18 by drafts made payable to the participant at the end of each  
19 contract year with disbursements not to exceed an amount to be  
20 established annually by the Commission. Prior to any disbursement,  
21 the Commission shall certify and properly review reports submitted  
22 by the participating physician ~~or~~, physician assistant, or certified  
23 nurse practitioner detailing performance of activities in accordance  
24 with the ~~Program~~ program.

1           7. The Commission shall review the performance in the ~~Program~~  
2 program of the participating physician ~~or,~~ physician assistant, or  
3 certified nurse practitioner and determine whether an award may be  
4 granted for additional years pursuant to rules promulgated by the  
5 Commission.

6           B. The physicians ~~and,~~ physician assistants, and certified  
7 nurse practitioners entering the ~~Program~~ program each year shall  
8 agree to provide medical care and services in areas designated by  
9 the Commission to provide medical care and services to Medicaid  
10 recipients as authorized by the Oklahoma Health Care Authority.

11           C. A physician ~~or,~~ physician assistant, or certified nurse  
12 practitioner shall be eligible to participate in the loan repayment  
13 program if the individual:

14           1. Is a physician ~~that,~~ physician assistant, or certified nurse  
15 practitioner who holds a current Oklahoma medical license;

16           2. Is a new primary care graduate physician ~~or,~~ physician  
17 assistant, or certified nurse practitioner. Preference will be  
18 given to graduates of the primary care residency programs affiliated  
19 with the Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine,  
20 the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine, and the teaching  
21 hospitals affiliated with both schools of medicine and teaching  
22 health centers located in this state; or

1 3. Is a current practicing physician ~~or~~, physician assistant,  
2 or certified nurse practitioner and has met criteria established by  
3 the Commission.

4 D. The Commission may accept donations of public or private  
5 funds to assist in funding the Oklahoma Medical Loan Repayment  
6 Program. The Commission may, at its discretion, contract with other  
7 public entities and nonprofit corporations for the endowment,  
8 management and administration of such funds.

9 E. The Commission shall present a report on the operation of  
10 the ~~Program~~ program to the Governor, the Speaker of the Oklahoma  
11 House of Representatives, and the President Pro Tempore of the  
12 Oklahoma State Senate within one (1) month of the beginning of each  
13 regular session of the Legislature, including but not limited to the  
14 progress made in accomplishing the goal of the ~~Program~~ program.

15 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 63 O.S. 2021, Section 1-2722, as  
16 amended by Section 4, Chapter 407, O.S.L. 2022 (63 O.S. Supp. 2023,  
17 Section 1-2722), is amended to read as follows:

18 Section 1-2722. The amount of the award of educational loan  
19 repayment assistance shall not exceed any maximum or minimum amount  
20 as promulgated by rules of the Health Care Workforce Training  
21 Commission pursuant to the Oklahoma Medical Loan Repayment Program.  
22 The actual amount of the award shall be based upon a determination  
23 of:  
24

1        1. Actual funds available to the ~~Program~~ program for  
2 expenditure; and

3        2. The existing student loan indebtedness of the participating  
4 physician, physician assistant, or certified nurse practitioner.

5        SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2024.

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7        59-2-10439        JM        02/22/24

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