

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

4 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
5 FOR
6 HOUSE BILL NO. 1696

By: McEntire of the House

and

Stanley of the Senate

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10 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

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

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

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:

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

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

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

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

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

19 6. Each award of educational loan repayment assistance shall be
20 for a contracted period and shall be distributed to the participant
21 by drafts made payable to the participant at the end of each
22 contract year with disbursements not to exceed an amount to be
23 established annually by the Commission. Prior to any disbursement,
24 the Commission shall certify and properly review reports submitted

1 by the participating physician ~~or~~, physician assistant, or certified
2 nurse practitioner detailing performance of activities in accordance
3 with the ~~Program~~ program.

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

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

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

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

19 2. Is a new primary care graduate physician ~~or~~, physician
20 assistant, or certified nurse practitioner. Preference will be
21 given to graduates of the primary care residency programs affiliated
22 with the Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine,
23 the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine, and the teaching
24

1 hospitals affiliated with both schools of medicine and teaching
2 health centers located in this state; or

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

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

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

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

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

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1 The actual amount of the award shall be based upon a determination
2 of:

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

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

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

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9 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND BUDGET, dated
10 02/26/2024 - DO PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.

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