

1 **State of Arkansas**
2 **78th General Assembly**
3 **Regular Session, 1991**
4 **By: Representative Lipton**

A Bill ACT 360 OF 1991

HOUSE BILL 1409

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 "AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A RURAL PHYSICIAN RECRUITMENT AND
9 RETENTION PROGRAM OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO ENCOURAGE
10 PHYSICIANS TO LOCATE AND ENGAGE IN THE FULL-TIME PRACTICE
11 OF MEDICINE IN RURAL COMMUNITIES; TO PROVIDE THAT
12 PHYSICIANS WHO OBTAINED MEDICAL SCHOOL LOANS UNDER THE
13 ARKANSAS MEDICAL PRACTICE STUDENT LOANS AND SCHOLARSHIP
14 PROGRAM SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION
15 PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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19 SECTION 1. It is the purpose and intent of this Act to establish a
20 program of financial assistance to encourage physicians to locate in and
21 remain in the practice of family medicine in communities of the State which
22 have a population of not more than 8,000 persons. It is the intent of the
23 General Assembly that physicians who locate in and carry on a full time
24 practice of family medicine in such communities after the effective date of
25 this Act shall be entitled to receive a grant for each whole calendar year of
26 full-time practice, not to exceed five years of assistance. In order to
27 enhance the retention as well as the recruitment of physicians to rural
28 communities, physicians will be awarded grants for continuous service in
29 qualifying full-time practice in the same rural community as follows:

30 FOR FIRST YEAR OF FULL-TIME PRACTICE IN A RURAL COMMUNITY	\$ 6,000
31 FOR SECOND YEAR OF CONTINUOUS FULL-TIME PRACTICE IN	
32 QUALIFYING COMMUNITY	8,000
33 FOR THIRD YEAR OF CONTINUOUS FULL-TIME PRACTICE IN	
34 QUALIFYING COMMUNITY	10,000
35 FOR FOURTH YEAR OF CONTINUOUS FULL-TIME PRACTICE IN	
36 QUALIFYING COMMUNITY	12,000

1 FOR FIFTH YEAR OF CONTINUOUS FULL-TIME PRACTICE IN
2 QUALIFYING COMMUNITY 14,000

3 It is further the intent of this Act that individuals who were assisted by the
4 Arkansas Rural Medical Practice Student Loan and Scholarship Program are also
5 eligible for benefits under this program.

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7 SECTION 2. Any person licensed to practice medicine in this State who,
8 subsequent to the effective date of this Act, establishes a full-time practice
9 of family medicine in a community in Arkansas having a population of eight
10 thousand (8,000) persons or less, according to the most recent census, or in
11 an area determined to be medically underserved due to an unmet need for
12 medical services, taking into consideration the ratio of primary care
13 physicians to population, infant mortality rate, percent of population below
14 the poverty level, percent of population and physicians age sixty (60) or
15 over, and accessibility of the area to primary care manpower, shall be
16 eligible to make application for a grant under the provisions of this Act in
17 an amount described under Section 1. Grants will be awarded on the basis of
18 available funds with priority given to rural communities having the greatest
19 need.

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21 SECTION 3. The program established in this Act shall be administered by
22 the Arkansas State Department of Health. The Department shall accept
23 applications for grants hereunder, determine the eligibility of applicants and
24 grant or deny such grants from any funds, available, and shall adopt and
25 enforce appropriate rules and regulations regarding forms to be used by
26 applicants for grants, and eligibility of applicants, and such other rules and
27 regulations as the Department deems necessary or appropriate to carry out the
28 purposes and intent of this Act and to prevent abuse of the program provided
29 for herein.

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31 SECTION 4. All provisions of this Act of a general and permanent nature
32 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code
33 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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35 SECTION 5. If any provision of this Act or the application thereof to

1 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
2 other provisions or applications of the Act which can be given effect without
3 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
4 Act are declared to be severable.

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6 SECTION 6. GENERAL REPEALER. All laws and parts of laws in conflict
7 with this Act are hereby repealed.

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9 SECTION 7. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is hereby found and determined by the
10 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that many rural communities of the
11 State are in dire need of physicians to supply adequate health care services,
12 that many rural communities are having difficulty recruiting and retaining
13 physicians to practice in their community, that financial incentive is
14 necessary to help physicians locate in rural communities, and that enactment
15 of this legislation will help provide incentive to physicians to locate in the
16 rural communities of this State. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared
17 to exist, and this Act being necessary for the preservation of the public
18 peace, health and safety, shall take effect and be in force from the date of
19 its approval.

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APPROVED: 3-5-91

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