

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

# A Bill

**HOUSE BILL**

## 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."

16  
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	

1 QUALIFYING COMMUNITY 12,000  
 2 FOR FIFTH YEAR OF CONTINUOUS FULL-TIME PRACTICE IN  
 3 QUALIFYING COMMUNITY 14,000

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

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

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

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

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1           SECTION 5. If any provision of this Act or the application thereof to  
2 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect  
3 other provisions or applications of the Act which can be given effect without  
4 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this  
5 Act are declared to be severable.

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

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

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