

1 **State of Arkansas**
2 **79th General Assembly**
3 **Regular Session, 1993**
4 **By: Senator Wilson**

S.C.R.

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7 **SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

8 REQUESTING THE ARKANSAS HEALTH RESOURCES COMMISSION TO
9 STUDY THE NEED FOR AN ARKANSAS HEALTH ACCESS INCENTIVE
10 PROGRAM FOR PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS AND MIDLEVEL
11 PRACTITIONERS OFFICED IN RURAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL
12 SHORTAGE AREAS, THE UAMS COLLEGE OF MEDICINE AND THE
13 COLLEGE OF NURSING ADMISSIONS POLICY, AND THE STATE
14 MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT PROTOCOLS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS
15 TO THE EIGHTIETH (80TH) GENERAL ASSEMBLY REGARDING ANY
16 STATUTORY PROVISIONS WHICH MIGHT IMPROVE HEALTH CARE
17 ACCESS IN RURAL ARKANSAS.

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19 **Subtitle**

20 AN ARKANSAS HEALTH ACCESS INCENTIVE PROGRAM.

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22 WHEREAS, all counties within Arkansas have a federally designated degree
23 of primary care physician-to-population shortage (58 counties are fully
24 designated), the shortage being most profound in statewide rural counties; and

25 WHEREAS, there is likely to be a universal health care coverage plan in
26 place by the year 2000 resulting in an increased demand of primary care
27 physicians throughout the state; and

28 WHEREAS, there has been a steady decline since the 1980_s in the number
29 of University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) medical students
30 entering family medicine upon graduation; and

31 WHEREAS, there will be a projected statewide shortage of three hundred
32 (300) family physicians by the year 2000 even after considering the addition
33 of graduating family practice residents training our state_s AHEC and UAMS
34 residency programs over the next eight year; and

35 WHEREAS, there is a shortage of masters level trained family nurse

1 practitioners licensed in the state; and

2 WHEREAS, many neighboring states have developed competitive Health
3 Access Incentive Programs for primary care providers interested in locating
4 their practice in a rural underserved community, thereby making it difficult
5 to retain those primary care providers trained in Arkansas; and

6 WHEREAS, to meet the conditions of participation, the Arkansas
7 Department of Health, through the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Initiative,
8 Practice Sights: States Primary Care Development Strategies, has the
9 opportunity to access up to \$1.5 million dedicated to the recruitment and
10 retention of primary care providers in medically underserved communities if
11 the previous topics are studied,

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14 NOW THEREFORE,

15 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE SEVENTY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
16 STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

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18 That the Arkansas Health Resources Commission study the existing rural
19 physician incentive programs, UAMS College of Medicine and College of Nursing
20 admissions policy, and the state Medicaid reimbursement protocols and make
21 recommendations to the Eightieth (80th) General Assembly regarding any
22 statutory provisions which might improve the recruitment and retention of
23 primary care providers in rural Arkansas through the establishment of a
24 comprehensive Arkansas Health Access Incentive Program.

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