

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 84th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2003

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1991

4  
5 By: Representative Goss  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

8  
9 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATION IN  
10 MEDICAL COLLEGE ADMISSIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS FROM  
11 MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS; AND FOR OTHER  
12 PURPOSES.  
13

## Subtitle

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15 AN ACT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL MEDICAL  
16 COLLEGE ADMISSIONS CONSIDERATION FOR  
17 MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS.  
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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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### SECTION 1. Findings.

22  
23 (1)(A) The University of Arkansas College of Medicine includes  
24 nonfaculty members on the fifteen (15) member admissions committee.

25 (B) The Liaison Committee for Medical Education, the accrediting  
26 body for allopathic medical schools in the United States, mandates that the  
27 admissions committee that selects applicants for admission shall be faculty  
28 members.

29 (C) However, state law mandates that the fifteen (15) member  
30 College of Medicine Admissions Committee consist of both faculty and  
31 nonfaculty members, two (2) from each of the four (4) congressional  
32 districts, and one (1) member at large.

33 (D) The intent of the General Assembly mandate is to provide  
34 greater committee representation from the entire state, in particular the  
35 underserved areas of Arkansas.

36 (E) Each time the University of Arkansas College of Medicine is



1 reviewed for accreditation by the Liaison Committee for Medical Education,  
2 the college is required to explain the reasons for the inclusion of  
3 nonfaculty members on the admissions committee.

4 (F) The College of Medicine Admissions Committee is the only  
5 medical school admissions committee in the United States that includes  
6 nonfaculty members.

7 (2)(A) Arkansas law mandates that seventy percent (70%) of the one  
8 hundred fifty (150) positions in the Freshman class each year be equally  
9 distributed among the four (4) congressional districts.

10 (B) The seventy percent (70%) requirement increases the  
11 geographical distribution and number of applicants from underserved areas of  
12 the state who are accepted for admission.

13 (C) The University of Arkansas College of Medicine is the only  
14 medical school in the United States that incorporates the seventy percent  
15 (70%) rule in the admissions process.

16 (3)(A) Many state medical schools have programs similar to the  
17 Arkansas program whose purpose is to increase the number of physicians  
18 practicing in rural communities in the state.

19 (B) Arkansas has had a program since 1949, the Arkansas Rural  
20 Medical Practice Student Loan and Scholarship Program, that provides  
21 financial incentives to medical students who contract to practice medicine in  
22 rural communities in the state.

23 (C) Medical students are given substantial amounts of loans  
24 during medical school with the contractual agreement that the loans will be  
25 converted to grants or forgiven, if they complete residency training and  
26 practice medicine in an underserved rural community in the state.

27 (D) However, Act 114 of 1995 created a new program, the  
28 Community Math Student Loan and Scholarship Program, which significantly  
29 modified the existing Arkansas Rural Medical Practice Student Loan and  
30 Scholarship Program.

31 (E) Act 1257 of 1995 strengthened the penalties for students who  
32 default on their contractual obligation to practice medicine in the state.

33 (F) However, the unique feature of Act 1114 of 1995, a specific  
34 provision that no other medical school in the United States has, is that if  
35 an alternate on the waiting list contracts with a rural community to practice  
36 primary care in that rural community, and the application is approved by the

1 Arkansas Rural Medical Practice Student Loan and Scholarship Board that  
 2 administers the program, the alternate is advanced to the top of the waiting  
 3 list and this greatly enhances the applicant's chances of being admitted to  
 4 medical school.

5 (G) This unique feature also applies to alternates who wish to  
 6 apply for the Arkansas Rural Practice Program.

7 (H) Alternates who contract to practice medicine in a rural  
 8 underserved community in the state, if approved by the board, are advanced on  
 9 the waiting list, just below the Community Match Alternates who are approved  
 10 and advanced.

11 (I) Since the program's inception in 1995, the University of  
 12 Arkansas College of Medicine has had approximately one hundred twenty-five  
 13 (125) physicians-in-training contract to return to underserved areas of the  
 14 state to practice full time primary care medicine.

15 (J) Applicants from underserved areas are typically given  
 16 greater considerations for participation and approval for the rural loan and  
 17 scholarship programs.

18  
 19 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-64-406(b)(1), concerning proportional  
 20 medical college admissions by congressional district, is amended to read as  
 21 follows:

22 (b)(1)(A) The Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas shall  
 23 allocate the first seventy percent (70%) of all enrollment positions for the  
 24 freshman medical class among Arkansas congressional districts, using the  
 25 population of each congressional district as determined by the last federal  
 26 decennial census to determine that district's proportion of the freshman  
 27 positions so allocated and shall assign those apportioned enrollment  
 28 positions for each district to those applicants who are legal residents in  
 29 that particular congressional district.

30 (B) The board shall give additional consideration to rural  
 31 applicants from medically underserved areas in an effort to address health  
 32 disparities.

33 (C)(i) The board shall promulgate rules and provide  
 34 resources to allow the area health education centers to offer one (1) year  
 35 programs to prepare identified medical school candidates from medically  
 36 underserved areas of the state for the Medical College Admission Test.

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(ii) Preparation for the Medical College Admission Test shall include, but not be limited to:

(a) Recruitment and guidance of individuals interested in health care professions;

(b) Early targeting of potential candidates, including junior high school, high school, two-year college, and four-year college undergraduate students;

(c) Use of community colleges throughout the state to offer Med Prep and other targeted studies with the aid of video and distance learning tools; and

(d) Ensuring that everyone interested in a medical profession receives an equal opportunity for success.