

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
4

As Engrossed: H3/7/03
A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1991

5 By: Representative Goss
6
7

8 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

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

14 **Subtitle**

15 AN ACT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL MEDICAL
16 COLLEGE ADMISSIONS CONSIDERATION FOR
17 MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS.
18
19

20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
21

22 SECTION 1. Findings.

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, concerning medical college*
 20 *admissions, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:*

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

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

32 (d)(1) The Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas
 33 shall promulgate rules and provide resources to allow the area health
 34 education centers to offer programs to prepare identified medical school
 35 candidates from medically underserved areas of the state for the Medical
 36 College Admission Test.

(2) 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 and four-year colleges and universities 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.

/s/ Goss

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36