

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

A Bill

ACT 763 OF 1993
HOUSE BILL 1492

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 "AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE 20-12-501 AND 20-12-503 TO
9 CHANGE THE POPULATION REQUIREMENT FOR DESIGNATION AS A
10 RURAL COMMUNITY FOR THE PHYSICIAN RECRUITMENT AND
11 RETENTION PROGRAM; TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE 20-12-502 TO
12 PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA; AND
13 FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Subtitle

16 "TO CHANGE THE POPULATION REQUIREMENT FOR DESIGNATION AS A
17 RURAL COMMUNITY FOR PHYSICIAN RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION
18 PROGRAM."

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

22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code 20-12-501 is amended to read as follows:
23 "20-12-501. Purpose - Grant established.

24 (a) It is the purpose and intent of this subchapter to establish a
25 program of financial assistance to encourage physicians to locate in and
26 remain in the practice of family medicine in communities of the state which
27 have a population of not more than fifteen thousand (15,000) persons. It is
28 the intent of the General Assembly that physicians who locate in and carry on
29 a full time practice of family medicine in such communities after March 5,
30 1991, shall be entitled to receive a grant for each whole calendar year of
31 full-time practice, not to exceed five (5) years of assistance. In order to
32 enhance the retention as well as the recruitment of physicians to rural
33 communities, physicians will be awarded grants for continuous service in
34 qualifying full-time practice in the same rural community as follows:

35 (1) For first year of full-time practice in a rural community .. \$
36 6,000;

1 (2) For second year of continuous full-time practice in qualifying
2 community .. 8,000;

3 (3) For third year of continuous full-time practice in qualifying
4 community .. 10,000;

5 (4) For fourth year of continuous full-time practice in qualifying
6 community .. 12,000;

7 (5) For fifth year of continuous full-time practice in qualifying
8 community .. 14,000.

9 (b) It is further the intent of this subchapter that individuals who
10 were assisted by the Arkansas Rural Medical Practice Student Loan and
11 Scholarship Program are also eligible for benefits under this program."
12

13 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code 20-12-503 is amended to read as follows:

14 "20-12-503. Eligibility. Any person licensed to practice medicine in
15 this state who, subsequent to March 5, 1991, establishes a full-time practice
16 of family medicine in a community in Arkansas having a population of fifteen
17 thousand (15,000) persons or less, according to the most recent census, or in
18 an area determined to be medically underserved due to an unmet need for
19 medical services, taking into consideration the ratio of primary care
20 physicians to population, infant mortality rate, percent of population below
21 the poverty level, percent of population and physicians age sixty (60) or
22 over, and accessibility of the area to primary care manpower, shall be
23 eligible to make application for a grant under the provisions of this
24 subchapter in an amount described under § 20-12-501. Grants will be awarded
25 on the basis of available funds with priority given to rural communities
26 having the greatest need. *Persons with an already established practice in the*
27 *community shall only be considered eligible under extreme circumstances*
28 *threatening the continuance of his service to the community as determined by*
29 *the Board of Health. Grant recipients shall enter into a contract to serve a*
30 *proportionate amount of Medicaid patients for the community, agree to work*
31 *within the existing health care system and practice a minimum of thirty-two*
32 *(32) hours a week. No applicant with professional income guarantees from*
33 *other sources shall be approved under this program."*
34

35 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code 20-12-502 is amended to read as follows:

1 "20-12-502. Administration by Department of Health. The program
2 established in this subchapter shall be administered by the Department of
3 Health. The department shall:

4 (1) Accept applications for grants hereunder;

5 (2) Determine the eligibility of applicants and grant or deny such
6 grants from any funds available;

7 (3) Adopt and enforce appropriate rules and regulations regarding forms
8 to be used by applicants for grants, and eligibility of applicants, and such
9 other rules and regulations as the department deems necessary or appropriate
10 to carry out the purposes and intent of this subchapter and to prevent abuse
11 of the program provided for herein; and

12 (4) Develop criteria for evaluating medically underserved areas, which
13 shall include, but not be limited to:

14 (A) infant mortality rate;

15 (B) poverty population percentage; and

16 (C) population-to-primary care physician ratio."
17

18 SECTION 4. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature
19 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code
20 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.
21

22 SECTION 5. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to
23 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
24 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
25 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
26 act are declared to be severable.
27

28 SECTION 6. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are
29 hereby repealed.
30
31
32
33

34 /s/Pat Flanagan
35

As Engrossed: 2/25/93

HB 1492

1

APPROVED: 3/26/93

vjf272