

1 State of Arkansas
2 92nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2019
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1785

5 By: Representatives L. Johnson, Boyd
6 By: Senator M. Pitsch
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAL EDUCATION GRANTS AND LOANS;
10 TO CREATE THE GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION RESIDENCY
11 EXPANSION BOARD; TO REQUIRE THE GRADUATE MEDICAL
12 EDUCATION RESIDENCY BOARD TO ADMINISTER AND
13 DISTRIBUTE PLANNING GRANTS TO CERTAIN ENTITIES IN
14 ORDER TO ESTABLISH ADDITIONAL FIRST-YEAR RESIDENCY
15 PROGRAMS, ESTABLISH NEW GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION
16 PROGRAMS WITH FIRST-YEAR RESIDENCY POSITIONS, AND
17 SUPPORT ADDITIONAL YEARS OF RESIDENCY FOR CERTAIN
18 INDIVIDUALS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

21 TO CREATE THE GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION
22 RESIDENCY EXPANSION BOARD; TO REQUIRE THE
23 BOARD TO DISTRIBUTE PLANNING GRANTS TO
24 CERTAIN ENTITIES IN ORDER TO EXPAND
25 FIRST-YEAR RESIDENCY PROGRAMS AND
26 POSITIONS.
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30 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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32 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 82, is amended to add an
33 additional subchapter to read as follows:

34 Subchapter 20 – Graduate Medical Education Residency Expansion Board
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36 6-82-2001. Graduate Medical Education Residency Expansion Board.



1 (a) There is established the Graduate Medical Education Residency
2 Expansion Board, which shall administer the program under this subchapter and
3 shall be composed of:

4 (1) One (1) representative from each medical school in Arkansas;

5 (2) Two (2) physician members appointed by the Arkansas State
6 Medical Board, giving preference to physicians who have received rural
7 medical practice loans, community match loans, or income incentives; and

8 (3) Two (2) representatives appointed by the Arkansas Hospital
9 Association, Inc.

10 (b) The board shall:

11 (1) Promulgate rules necessary to execute this subchapter,
12 including without limitation rules that address the requirements and are in
13 conformance with the requirements of the Arkansas Administrative Procedure
14 Act, § 25-15-201 et seq.;

15 (2) Prescribe forms for and regulate the submission of grant
16 applications;

17 (3) Determine the eligibility of applicants;

18 (4) Manage, operate, and control all funds and property
19 appropriated or otherwise contributed for this purpose;

20 (5) Accept gifts, grants, bequests, or devises and apply them as
21 a part of the program under this subchapter;

22 (6) Sue and be sued as the board; and

23 (7) Accept moneys from federal programs that may be used for
24 furtherance of the purposes of this subchapter.

25 (c) The members of the board may receive expense reimbursement and
26 stipends in accordance with § 25-16-901 et seq.

27 (d) The Department of Higher Education shall administer the Graduate
28 Medical Education Fund under § 19-5-1264 and disburse the funds at the
29 direction of the board under this subchapter.

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31 6-82-2002. Planning grants.

32 (a) As used in this subchapter, a "planning grant" is a grant awarded
33 by the Graduate Medical Education Residency Expansion Board to eligible
34 entities and individuals under this subchapter.

35 (b) The board shall:

36 (1) Allocate funds appropriated for purposes of this subchapter;

1 (2) Award a one-time planning grant under this section to an
 2 entity in this state that:

3 (A) Has never had a graduate medical education program;
 4 and

5 (B) Is eligible for Medicare funding of graduate medical
 6 education;

7 (3) Award planning grants on a competitive basis according to
 8 the criteria adopted by the board under its rules; and

9 (4) Determine the number of planning grants awarded and the
 10 amount of each planning grant.

11 (c)(1) An application for a planning grant under this section shall be
 12 submitted by an entity to the board no later than July 15 of the year
 13 preceding the year for which the planning grant will be used.

14 (2) The board shall award a planning grant to an eligible entity
 15 under this section no later than August 15 of the year in which the eligible
 16 entity's application was submitted.

17 (d) An entity that is awarded a planning grant under this section and
 18 establishes additional first-year residency positions after the receipt of a
 19 planning grant is eligible for additional funds for each position
 20 established.

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 22 6-82-2003. Planning grants for program expansion or new programs.

23 (a) The Graduate Medical Education Residency Expansion Board shall
 24 award planning grants to enable entities with existing graduate medical
 25 education programs to:

26 (1) Increase the number of first-year residency positions; and

27 (2) Provide for the establishment of new graduate medical
 28 education programs with first-year residency positions.

29 (b) The board shall determine the number of planning grants awarded
 30 under this section and the amount of each planning grant awarded under this
 31 section.

32 (c) A planning grant under this section shall be used to support the
 33 direct resident costs to the graduate medical education program, including
 34 without limitation stipends and benefits.

35 (d) An entity applying for a planning grant under this section shall:

36 (1) Include a plan for receiving accreditation for the increased

1 number of residency positions or for the new graduate medical education
2 program, as applicable; and

3 (2) Be submitted to the board no later than October 1 preceding
4 the academic year for which the planning grant is made.

5 (e) The board shall:

6 (1) Award a planning grant under this section no later than
7 January 1 of the year in which the planning grant will be used; and

8 (2) Distribute a planning grant amount for a residency position
9 under this section only upon receiving verification that the applicable
10 residency position has been filled.

11 (f)(1) A planning grant awarded under this section shall be in effect
12 for no more than three (3) consecutive fiscal years.

13 (2) For each first-year residency position for which an entity
14 with a graduate medical education program receives an initial planning grant
15 under this section, the board shall award the entity with the graduate
16 medical education program an equal planning grant amount for the following
17 fiscal year, not to exceed three (3) fiscal years.

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19 6-82-2004. Priority of planning grants – Adjustment of amounts.

20 (a) If the Graduate Medical Education Residency Expansion Board
21 determines that the number of first-year residency positions proposed by
22 eligible applicants under § 6-82-2003 exceeds the amount of funding
23 appropriated for the planning grants under this subchapter, the board:

24 (1) May give priority for up to fifty percent (50%) of the
25 funded first-year residency positions to be in primary care or other critical
26 shortage areas in this state; and

27 (2) Shall not reduce planning grant amounts awarded for each
28 resident position, but may proportionately reduce the number of positions
29 funded for each graduate medical education program.

30 (b) If the board determines that, based on the applications it has
31 received for planning grants under § 6-82-2003, the entire appropriation for
32 planning grants under this subchapter shall not be awarded for a particular
33 year, the board may transfer and use the funds appropriated to award planning
34 grants under § 6-82-2002.

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36 6-82-2005. Planning grants for additional years of residency.

1 (a) If the Graduate Medical Education Residency Expansion Board
 2 determines that funds appropriated under this subchapter are available after
 3 all eligible planning grant applications under §§ 6-82-2002 and 6-82-2003
 4 have been funded, the board shall award planning grants from excess funds to
 5 support medical residents who:

6 (1) Have completed at least three (3) years of residency; and

7 (2) Are enrolled in a residency program in a field in which this
 8 state has less than eighty percent (80%) of the national average of
 9 physicians per one hundred thousand (100,000) people, as determined by the
 10 board.

11 (b) The board shall determine the following with respect to planning
 12 grants under this section:

13 (1) The amount of a planning grant awarded under this section;

14 (2) The number of planning grants awarded under this section;

15 and

16 (3) The residency fields in which recipients of planning grants
 17 under this section work.

18 (c) A planning grant under this section shall be used to support the
 19 direct resident costs to the graduate medical education program, including
 20 without limitation stipends and benefits.

21 (d) The board shall distribute a planning grant amount for a residency
 22 position under this section only upon receiving verification that the
 23 applicable residency position has been filled.

24
 25 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 19, Chapter 5, Subchapter 12, is
 26 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

27 19-5-1264. Graduate Medical Education Fund.

28 (a) There is created on the books of the Treasurer of State, the
 29 Auditor of State, and the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State a miscellaneous
 30 fund to be known as the "Graduate Medical Education Fund".

31 (b) The fund shall consist of:

32 (1) Gifts, grants, and donations,

33 (2) Any revenues provided by law; and

34 (3) Any other funds and fund transfers authorized or provided
 35 for by law.

36 (c)(1) The fund shall be administered by the Department of Higher

1 Education as provided in § 6-82-2001 et seq., and as provided by any other
2 relevant provisions of law.

3 (2) The moneys in the fund shall be disbursed at the direction of
4 the Graduate Medical Education Residency Expansion Board as provided under §
5 6-82-2001 et seq.

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8 **APPROVED: 4/10/19**
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