

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.

Act 709 of the Regular Session

1 State of Arkansas  
2 87th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2009  
4

As Engrossed: S3/19/09

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1983

5 By: Representative Allen  
6  
7

8 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

9 AN ACT TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF HEALTH CARE  
10 WORKERS FROM GROUPS THAT ARE UNDERREPRESENTED  
11 INCLUDING NATIVE AMERICANS, AFRICAN-AMERICANS,  
12 ALASKAN NATIVES, PACIFIC AMERICANS, HISPANIC  
13 AMERICANS, NATIVE HAWAIIANS, AND PACIFIC  
14 ISLANDERS IN HEALTH PROFESSION FIELDS IN THE  
15 STATE OF ARKANSAS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
16

17 **Subtitle**

18 THE HEALTH CARE STUDENTS SUMMER  
19 ENRICHMENT PROGRAM FOR UNDERREPRESENTED  
20 STUDENT POPULATIONS ACT.  
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22

23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
24

25 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 5 is amended to add an  
26 additional subchapter to read as follows:

27 6-5-801. Title.

28 This subchapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Health Care  
29 Student Summer Enrichment Program For Underrepresented Student Populations  
30 Act".  
31

32 6-5-802. Intent -- Findings.

33 (a) This subchapter is intended to ensure academic success and  
34 completion of medical, pharmacy, and nursing school by an increasing number  
35 of minority students.



1 (b) The General Assembly finds that:

2 (1) The healthcare workforce and its ability to deliver quality  
3 care for all, including racial and ethnic minorities, can be improved  
4 substantially by increasing the proportion of underrepresented United States  
5 racial and ethnic minorities among health professionals;

6 (2) Nationally, African-Americans, Native Americans, Mexican  
7 Americans, and Mainland Puerto Ricans make up twenty-five percent (25%) of  
8 the United States population.

9 (B) However, racial and ethnic minority students make up  
10 less than eight percent (8%) of practicing physicians and less than five (5%)  
11 of medical, pharmacy, and nursing school faculties;

12 (3) Summer enrichment programs have proven to aid in the  
13 recruitment and retention of students and faculty in all colleges on the  
14 campus of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences;

15 (4) Statistics concerning practicing physicians are as follows:

16 (A) Practicing physicians in Arkansas, seven thousand  
17 eight hundred eighty-nine (7,889);

18 (B) Practicing African-American physicians in Arkansas,  
19 one hundred fifty (150) or one and nine-tenths percent (1.9%) of Arkansas  
20 practicing physicians;

21 (C) An Arkansas majority physician to patient ratio of one  
22 (1) majority physician to five hundred seventy (570) persons;

23 (D) An Arkansas minority physician: patient ratio of one  
24 (1) physician to three thousand one hundred twenty-five (3125) persons;

25 (E) A national physician to patient ratio of one (1)  
26 physician to five hundred twenty (520) persons; and

27 (F) Most minority physicians practice in underserved  
28 areas; and

29 (5) It necessary for the public health and welfare of Arkansas  
30 to create the Health Care Student Summer Enrichment Program Act For  
31 Underrepresented Student Groups Act.

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33 6-5-803. Arkansas Academic Physician Program.

34 (a) There is created within the Department of Higher Education the  
35 Arkansas Academic Physician Program.

36 (b) To ensure academic success and completion of medical, pharmacy, or

1 nursing school, the Arkansas Academic Physician Program shall provide  
2 academic support for students preparing to matriculate at the University of  
3 Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

4 (c) The program shall offer tutoring, group study, test-taking  
5 strategies and supplemental instruction to promote collegiality and enhance  
6 the student's ability to master the basic sciences and increase the applicant  
7 pool.

8 (d) The program aims to offer premedical, prepharmacy, and prenursing  
9 students in Arkansas from diverse backgrounds the opportunity to engage in a  
10 variety of clinical hands-on experiences.

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12 6-5-704. Health Care Student Summer Enrichment Program For  
13 Underrepresented Student Groups.

14 (a) There is created within the Department of Higher Education the  
15 Health Care Student Summer Enrichment Program for Underrepresented Student  
16 Groups.

17 (b) The program is an intensive six-week program targeting  
18 undergraduate students designed to:

19 (1) Increase awareness among racial and ethnic minority  
20 undergraduate students of:

21 (A) Common medical problems in underserved communities;  
22 and

23 (B) Career opportunities in fields of medicine;

24 (2) Provide participants with a meaningful experience in health  
25 related fields; and

26 (3) Simulate the interest of racial and ethnic minority  
27 undergraduate students in careers in science, medicine, and biomedical  
28 research.

29 (c) The program shall be designed to encourage participation by  
30 students of diverse backgrounds.

31  
32 /s/ Allen

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34 **APPROVED: 3/31/2009**