

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 87th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2009
4

As Engrossed: S3/19/09

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1983

5 By: Representative Allen
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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

Subtitle

17 THE HEALTH CARE STUDENTS SUMMER
18 ENRICHMENT PROGRAM FOR UNDERREPRESENTED
19 STUDENT POPULATIONS ACT.
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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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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.

36 (b) The General Assembly finds that:



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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32 6-5-803. Arkansas Academic Physician Program.

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

35 (b) To ensure academic success and completion of medical, pharmacy, or
36 nursing school, the Arkansas Academic Physician Program shall provide

1 academic support for students preparing to matriculate at the University of
2 Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

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

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

10
11 6-5-704. Health Care Student Summer Enrichment Program For
12 Underrepresented Student Groups.

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

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

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

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

22 (B) Career opportunities in fields of medicine;

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

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

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

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31 */s/ Allen*
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