

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

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1983

5 By: Representative Allen
6
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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".

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

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

35 (b) The General Assembly finds that:

36 (1) The healthcare workforce and its ability to deliver quality



1 care for all, including racial and ethnic minorities, can be improved
 2 substantially by increasing the proportion of underrepresented United States
 3 racial and ethnic minorities among health professionals;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 31 6-5-803. Arkansas Academic Physician Program.

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

34 (b) To ensure academic success and completion of medical school, the
 35 Arkansas Academic Physician Program shall provide academic support for
 36 students preparing to matriculate at the University of Arkansas for Medical

1 Sciences.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 (B) Career opportunities in fields of medicine;

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

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

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

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