

1 State of Arkansas
2 94th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2023
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1545

5 By: Representative L. Johnson
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT CONCERNING RURAL MEDICAL PRACTICE STUDENT
9 LOANS AND SCHOLARSHIPS; TO REDEFINE "MEDICALLY
10 UNDERSERVED" FOR PURPOSES OF THE ARKANSAS RURAL
11 MEDICAL PRACTICE STUDENT LOAN AND SCHOLARSHIP
12 PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
13
14

Subtitle

15 CONCERNING RURAL MEDICAL PRACTICE STUDENT
16 LOANS AND SCHOLARSHIPS.
17
18
19

20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
21

22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-81-701 is amended to read as follows:
23 6-81-701. Definitions.

24 As used in this subchapter:

25 (1) "Medically underserved population" means ~~an area in Arkansas~~
26 ~~that the Arkansas Rural Medical Practice Student Loan and Scholarship Board~~
27 ~~determines has unmet needs for medical services due to factors, including~~
28 ~~without limitation:~~

29 (A) ~~The ratio of primary care physicians to population;~~

30 (B) ~~The infant mortality rate;~~

31 (C) ~~The percentage of:~~

32 (i) ~~Population with incomes below the federal~~
33 ~~poverty level, as it existed on January 1, 2017;~~

34 (ii) ~~Resident individuals sixty (60) years of age~~
35 ~~and older; and~~

36 (iii) ~~Physicians sixty (60) years of age and older;~~



1 ~~(D) Accessibility within the area to primary care~~
2 ~~medicine; and~~

3 ~~(E) Other relevant criteria the board may deem necessary~~
4 ~~for a determination of unmet needs for medical services the same as defined~~
5 ~~in 42 U.S.C. § 254b, as in effect on January 1, 2024; and~~

6 (2) "Primary care medicine" means health care provided in one
7 (1) of the following areas of practice:

- 8 (A) Family medicine;
- 9 (B) General internal medicine;
- 10 (C) General internal medicine and pediatrics;
- 11 (D) General pediatrics;
- 12 (E) General obstetrics and gynecology;
- 13 (F) General surgery;
- 14 (G) Emergency medicine; and
- 15 (H) Geriatrics; ~~and~~

16 ~~(3) "Qualified rural community" means an area:~~

- 17 ~~(A) With a population below twenty thousand (20,000)~~
18 ~~according to the most recent federal census;~~
- 19 ~~(B) That is at least twenty (20) miles from a city or town~~
20 ~~with a population of more than twenty thousand (20,000) according to the most~~
21 ~~recent federal census; and~~
- 22 ~~(C) That is reasonably determined by the board to be~~
23 ~~medically underserved.~~

24
25 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-81-702(a)(1), concerning the
26 establishment of the Arkansas Rural Medical Practice Student Loan and
27 Scholarship Board, is amended to read as follows:

28 (a)(1) There is established the Arkansas ~~Rural~~ Medically Underserved
29 Population Medical Practice Student Loan and Scholarship Board that shall
30 consist of eight (8) members appointed by the Governor for three-year terms.

31
32 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-81-702(b), concerning the duties of the
33 Arkansas Rural Medical Practice Student Loan and Scholarship Board, is
34 amended to read as follows:

35 (b) The board shall:

- 36 (1) Promulgate reasonable rules necessary to execute the

1 provisions of this subchapter, including rules addressing the requirements
 2 and in conformance with the requirements of the Arkansas Administrative
 3 Procedure Act, § 25-15-201 et seq., and other appropriate state laws in
 4 promulgating and placing rules into effect:

5 (A) For a health professions shortage area;

6 (B) ~~To~~ For a community with a medically underserved
 7 population to become a qualified rural community eligible to participate in
 8 the ~~Rural~~ Arkansas Medically Underserved Population Medical Practice Student
 9 Loan and Scholarship Program or the Community Match Rural Physician
 10 Recruitment Program; and

11 (C) For a procedure to resolve disputes arising out of or
 12 relating to a ~~rural~~ medically underserved population practice or community
 13 match loan or income incentive contract;

14 (2) Prescribe forms for and regulate the submission of loan
 15 applications;

16 (3) Determine eligibility of applicants;

17 (4) Allow or disallow loan or income incentive applications;

18 (5) Contract, increase, decrease, terminate, and otherwise
 19 regulate all loan and income incentive disbursements for these purposes,
 20 receipts for their repayment, and convert loans to scholarships or grants, as
 21 applicable;

22 (6) Manage, operate, and control all funds and property
 23 appropriated or otherwise contributed for this purpose;

24 (7) Accept gifts, grants, bequests, or devises and apply them as
 25 a part of ~~this program~~ the Arkansas Medically Underserved Population Medical
 26 Practice Student Loan and Scholarship Program;

27 (8) Sue and be sued as the board; and

28 (9) Accept moneys from federal programs that may be used for
 29 furtherance of the purposes of this subchapter.

30
 31 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-81-702(d), concerning the administration
 32 of the Arkansas Rural Medical Practice Student Loan and Scholarship Program,
 33 is amended to read as follows:

34 (d) The board shall administer the ~~Rural~~ Arkansas Medically
 35 Underserved Population Medical Practice Student Loan and Scholarship Program
 36 and the Community Match Rural Physician Recruitment Program.

1
2 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 6-81-703(a), concerning loan applications
3 for students accepted for admission to or enrolled in good standing in the
4 College of Medicine of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, is
5 amended to read as follows:

6 (a)(1) Any student accepted for admission to or enrolled in good
7 standing in the College of Medicine of the University of Arkansas for Medical
8 Sciences in studies leading to the degree of Doctor of Medicine who is a bona
9 fide resident of Arkansas may apply for a loan under this subchapter on forms
10 prescribed by the Arkansas ~~Rural~~ Medically Underserved Population Medical
11 Practice Student Loan and Scholarship Board.

12 (2) An individual who is not already contracted to practice in a
13 qualified rural area as required under this subchapter is eligible for a loan
14 under this subchapter if he or she otherwise meets the requirements for a
15 loan.

16
17 SECTION 6. Arkansas Code §§ 6-81-704 - 6-81-708 are amended to read as
18 follows:

19 6-81-704. Medical students – Investigation after application.

20 When a ~~rural~~ medically underserved population medical practice loan
21 application is filed with the Arkansas ~~Rural~~ Medically Underserved Population
22 Medical Practice Student Loan and Scholarship Board, the board shall examine
23 the application, investigate the ability, character, and qualifications of
24 the applicant, and investigate the financial standing of the applicant or his
25 or her parents to determine whether the applicant is in need of a loan to
26 advance his or her medical education.

27
28 6-81-705. Medical students – Purpose of loan.

29 ~~Rural~~ Medically underserved population medical practice loans provided
30 for in this subchapter shall be made for the sole purpose of paying the
31 applicant's tuition, maintenance, and educational expenses and the necessary
32 living expenses of his or her dependents while the applicant is enrolled in a
33 program of medical education as described in this subchapter.

34
35 6-81-706. Medical students – Eligibility for initial and renewal
36 loans.

1 (a) The Arkansas ~~Rural~~ Medically Underserved Population Medical
 2 Practice Student Loan and Scholarship Board may make rural medical practice
 3 loans to the applicant, each rural medical practice loan being expressly made
 4 subject to the provisions of § 6-81-708(c) and § 6-81-710, if it finds that:

5 (1) The applicant is a bona fide resident of Arkansas;

6 (2) The applicant has been accepted for admission to or is
 7 enrolled in good standing in the College of Medicine of the University of
 8 Arkansas for Medical Sciences in studies leading to the degree of Doctor of
 9 Medicine;

10 (3) The applicant is enrolled in a medically underserved and
 11 rural practice curriculum;

12 (4) The applicant needs financial assistance to complete his or
 13 her medical studies;

14 (5) The applicant desires to practice medicine in ~~an eligible~~
 15 ~~qualified rural~~ a community with a medically underserved population; and

16 (6) The applicant is a person of good moral character and one
 17 who has the talent and capacity to profit by medical studies.

18 (b) Subject to the availability of funds, an initial ~~rural~~ medically
 19 underserved population medical practice loan for one (1) academic year shall
 20 be renewable annually for the number of years required to complete studies
 21 leading to the Doctor of Medicine degree or for additional amounts, not to
 22 exceed the maximum amounts specified in § 6-81-707, but all subsequent ~~rural~~
 23 medically underserved population medical practice loans shall be granted only
 24 upon application by the recipient and a finding by the board that:

25 (1) The applicant has completed successfully the medical studies
 26 of the preceding academic year and remains in good standing as an enrolled
 27 student in the college;

28 (2) The applicant is enrolled or participating in a medically
 29 underserved ~~and rural practice~~ curriculum;

30 (3) The applicant continues to be a resident of Arkansas; and

31 (4) The applicant's financial situation continues to warrant
 32 financial assistance made under the conditions of this section.

33
 34 6-81-707. Maximum amount of loans.

35 (a) The maximum amount of each ~~rural~~ medically underserved population
 36 practice loan for medical students shall not exceed sixteen thousand five

1 hundred dollars (\$16,500) per academic year or those costs that are
 2 reasonable and necessary for the student’s attendance as determined by the
 3 Arkansas ~~Rural~~ Medically Underserved Population Medical Practice Student Loan
 4 and Scholarship Board.

5 (b)(1) The maximum amount of each community match income incentive
 6 shall not exceed eighty thousand dollars (\$80,000) or as the board otherwise
 7 shall determine payable under § 6-81-716.

8 (2) The board shall provide one-half (½) of the community match
 9 income incentive, and the ~~qualified rural~~ community with a medically
 10 underserved population shall provide the other one-half (½) of the income
 11 incentive.

12 (3) However, if the board does not have sufficient funds to
 13 match the community’s portion of the income incentive, nothing precludes a
 14 ~~qualified rural~~ community with a medically underserved population from
 15 providing the total income incentive amount.

16
 17 6-81-708. Loan contracts – ~~Rural~~ Medically Underserved Population
 18 Medical Practice Loans – Obligations and conditions.

19 (a) The Arkansas ~~Rural~~ Medically Underserved Population Medical
 20 Practice Student Loan and Scholarship Board shall enter into a loan contract
 21 with the applicant to whom a ~~rural~~ medically underserved population medical
 22 practice loan is made.

23 (b) The contract shall be approved by the Attorney General and shall
 24 be signed by the Chair of the Arkansas ~~Rural~~ Medically Underserved Population
 25 Medical Practice Student Loan and Scholarship Board, countersigned by the
 26 Secretary of the Arkansas ~~Rural~~ Medically Underserved Population Medical
 27 Practice Student Loan and Scholarship Board, and signed by the applicant.

28 (c) Each applicant to whom a ~~rural~~ medically underserved population
 29 medical practice loan or loans is granted by the Arkansas ~~Rural~~ Medically
 30 Underserved Population Medical Practice Student Loan and Scholarship Board
 31 shall execute a written loan contract that incorporates the following
 32 obligations and conditions:

33 (1)(A) The recipient of a ~~rural~~ medically underserved population
 34 medical practice loan or loans shall bindingly contract that he or she shall
 35 practice primary care medicine full time in a ~~qualified rural~~ community with
 36 a medically underserved population upon completion of:

1 (i) His or her medical internship of one (1) year
2 undertaken immediately following the earning of the degree of Doctor of
3 Medicine;

4 (ii) Four (4) additional years of medical training
5 beyond the internship if the training has been approved in advance by the
6 Arkansas ~~Rural~~ Medically Underserved Population Medical Practice Student Loan
7 and Scholarship Board and includes practice experience in a ~~rural~~ community
8 with a medically underserved population; or

9 (iii) At the request of the recipient of a ~~rural~~
10 medically underserved population medical practice loan, the Arkansas ~~Rural~~
11 Medically Underserved Population Medical Practice Student Loan and
12 Scholarship Board may approve the recipient's request to practice in more
13 than one (1) ~~qualified rural~~ community with a medically underserved
14 population to meet his or her obligation to practice full time if the
15 Arkansas ~~Rural~~ Medically Underserved Population Medical Practice Student Loan
16 and Scholarship Board determines, based upon guidelines established by the
17 Arkansas ~~Rural~~ Medically Underserved Population Medical Practice Student Loan
18 and Scholarship Board, that the physician need in the ~~rural~~ communities with
19 a medically underserved population cannot sustain a full-time medical
20 practice or that other compelling circumstances exist.

21 (B) The recipient of a ~~rural~~ medically underserved
22 population medical practice loan or loans shall bindingly contract that for
23 each year's loan he or she shall practice medicine in accordance with
24 subdivision (c)(1)(A) of this section for a whole year.

25 (C) For each continuous whole year of medical practice, in
26 accordance with subdivision (c)(1)(A) of this section, subject to reasonable
27 leave periods, including without limitation vacation, sick leave, continuing
28 medical education, jury duty, funerals, holidays, or military service, the
29 Arkansas ~~Rural~~ Medically Underserved Population Medical Practice Student Loan
30 and Scholarship Board shall cancel, by converting to a scholarship grant, the
31 full amount of one (1) year's loan plus accrued interest;

32 (2)(A) The recipient of a ~~rural~~ medically underserved population
33 medical practice loan or loans shall bindingly contract that not engaging in
34 the practice of medicine in accordance with the loan contract and with this
35 subchapter may result in suspension of his or her license to practice
36 medicine in this state.

1 (B) For any contract entered into after August 1, 2007,
 2 the recipient's medical license may not be suspended unless the recipient's
 3 contract contained a specific term that loss of license was a consequence of
 4 breach and the recipient signed a written acknowledgment of understanding
 5 that the suspension of license was explained to him or her orally as a
 6 potential consequence of breach of the contractual provisions.

7 (C) The suspension may be for a period of years equivalent
 8 to the number of years that the recipient is obligated to practice medicine
 9 in a ~~rural area~~ community with a medically underserved population but has not
 10 so practiced and until the loan with interest together with any civil money
 11 penalties, as reduced by each full year of medical practice according to the
 12 terms of the loan contract, is paid in full;

13 (3) Any communication from the University of Arkansas College of
 14 Medicine with any state medical licensing board shall include a notation that
 15 the recipient of a ~~rural~~ medically underserved population medical practice
 16 loan has a contract with the State of Arkansas to practice medicine in a
 17 ~~rural~~ community with a medically underserved population and that breach of
 18 that contract may result in suspension of the recipient's Arkansas medical
 19 license;

20 (4)(A) In the event that any ~~rural~~ medically underserved
 21 population medical practice loan recipient under this subchapter does not
 22 engage in the practice of medicine in accordance with the terms of this
 23 section and of his or her loan contract in order to have the loan contract
 24 recognized as a scholarship, the recipient shall remain obligated to repay
 25 the loan or loans received, together with interest at the maximum rate
 26 allowed by Arkansas law or the federal discount rate plus five percent (5%)
 27 per annum, whichever is the lesser, the interest to accrue from the date each
 28 payment of funds was received by the recipient.

29 (B) Neither interest nor the obligation to repay the
 30 principal sums accrued shall accrue during any one (1) period of time that
 31 the recipient involuntarily serves on active duty in the United States Armed
 32 Forces.

33 (C) Repayment of principal with interest shall be due and
 34 payable in full at the earliest to occur of the following events:

35 (i) Failure to remain enrolled in a medically
 36 underserved ~~and rural practice~~ curriculum;

1 (ii) Failure to remain in enrollment status
2 continuously to completion of the degree of Doctor of Medicine for any reason
3 other than temporary personal illness;

4 (iii) Failure to complete internship;

5 (iv)(a) Failure to engage in the full-time practice
6 of medicine while residing in a ~~qualified rural~~ community with a medically
7 underserved population in Arkansas as defined in § 6-81-701.

8 (b) However, the Arkansas ~~Rural~~ Medically
9 Underserved Population Medical Practice Student Loan and Scholarship Board
10 may waive the residency requirement on a case-by-case basis; and

11 (v) Failure to establish a practice as described
12 under subdivision (c)(4)(C)(iv)(a) of this section within six (6) months
13 following either internship or four (4) additional years of medical education
14 that includes practice experience in a ~~rural~~ community with a medically
15 underserved population;

16 (5) If an alternate on the waiting list for acceptance to the
17 University of Arkansas College of Medicine enters into a ~~rural~~ medically
18 underserved population medical practice program contract conditioned only
19 upon the applicant's being accepted for admission to the college and
20 otherwise meets the requirements of § 6-81-706 and if the applicant is moved
21 to the top of the waiting list under § 6-81-718, the alternate's contract
22 shall contain an additional term that breach of the contract may result in
23 civil money penalties in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the loan
24 amount; and

25 (6) This subsection shall not prohibit the Arkansas ~~Rural~~
26 Medically Underserved Population Medical Practice Student Loan and
27 Scholarship Board from considering and entering into a negotiated settlement
28 with the ~~rural~~ medically underserved population medical practice loan
29 recipient involving the license suspension, the amount of the civil money
30 penalty, and the terms of repayment of the loan.

31 (d) The Arkansas ~~Rural~~ Medically Underserved Population Medical
32 Practice Student Loan and Scholarship Board may amend agreements entered into
33 with any loan recipient at any time prior to full performance of the
34 recipient's contractual obligations.

35 (e)(1) A ~~rural~~ medically underserved population medical practice loan
36 recipient may apply to the Dean of the College of Medicine of the University

1 of Arkansas for Medical Sciences for a waiver of the contractual provisions
 2 set forth in subdivision (c)(2) of this section.

3 (2)(A) If the dean as Chair of the Arkansas ~~Rural~~ Medically
 4 Underserved Population Medical Practice Student Loan and Scholarship Board
 5 determines that exigent circumstances warrant a waiver, the loan recipient
 6 shall be notified in writing.

7 (B) The dean shall immediately notify the Arkansas State
 8 Medical Board of such determination.

9
 10 SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 6-81-710 is amended to read as follows:

11 6-81-710. Funding of loans.

12 (a)(1) All payments for ~~rural~~ medically underserved population
 13 practice loans and community match loans under this subchapter shall be made
 14 on requisitions signed by the Chair of the Arkansas ~~Rural~~ Medically
 15 Underserved Population Medical Practice Student Loan and Scholarship Board
 16 drawn against the funds held for the purpose of this subchapter.

17 (2) These funds, consisting of state appropriations so
 18 designated, revolving amounts received from repayment of loans and interest,
 19 and all funds and property and income therefrom received by the Arkansas
 20 ~~Rural~~ Medically Underserved Population Medical Practice Student Loan and
 21 Scholarship Board under its authority to accept and apply gifts, bequests,
 22 and devises shall be held in trust and disbursed by the fiscal officers of
 23 the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences for the ~~aforsaid~~ purposes
 24 described by this subchapter.

25 (b) Funds collected as a result of a recipient's breach of a
 26 ~~rural~~ medically underserved population practice loan contract or community
 27 match loan contract shall be held in trust for the use of the Arkansas ~~Rural~~
 28 Medically Underserved Population Medical Practice Student Loan and
 29 Scholarship Program and the Community Match Rural Physician Recruitment
 30 Program, or as otherwise deemed appropriate by the ~~Arkansas Rural Medical~~
 31 ~~Practice Student Loan and Scholarship Board~~ board in its discretion, and
 32 disbursed by the fiscal officer of the University of Arkansas for Medical
 33 Sciences under this subchapter.

34
 35 SECTION 8. Arkansas Code § 6-81-711(a), concerning the annual report
 36 provided by the Arkansas Rural Medical Practice Student Loan and Scholarship

1 Board, is amended to read as follows:

2 (a) The Arkansas ~~Rural~~ Medically Underserved Population Medical
3 Practice Student Loan and Scholarship Board shall make an annual report to
4 the Governor concerning the activities of the board and shall file a copy of
5 its report with the Legislative Council.

6
7 SECTION 9. Arkansas Code § 6-81-714(a) and (b), concerning dispute
8 resolutions under the Arkansas Rural Medical Practice Student Loans and
9 Scholarships Program, is amended to read as follows:

10 (a) Any applicant for a loan or income incentive issued by the
11 Arkansas ~~Rural~~ Medically Underserved Population Medical Practice Student Loan
12 and Scholarship Board, any person who has been granted a loan or has been
13 granted income incentives by the board, or any party to a ~~rural~~ medically
14 underserved population medical practice or community match loan or income
15 incentive may appeal any decision or action by the board relating to the
16 application for a loan or income incentive or relating to a loan or income
17 incentive granted by the board under the dispute resolution procedure
18 established under this subchapter.

19 (b)(1) The board, under § 6-81-702(b)(1), shall promulgate rules
20 establishing a procedure that may be used by a loan or income incentive
21 recipient, the board, or a ~~qualified rural~~ community with a medically
22 underserved population to resolve any dispute arising out of or relating to a
23 ~~rural~~ medically underserved population practice or community match loan or
24 income incentive contract, including the validity or interpretation of a
25 contract term, contract enforcement or defenses, the occurrence of an event
26 of default or breach, loan repayment, the assessment or imposition of
27 contract damages or civil money penalties, or other related disputes.

28 (2) The rules may provide for alternative dispute resolution,
29 such as mediation, as appropriate.

30 (3) The dispute resolution procedure established by the board
31 shall be followed before the initiation of any litigation related to a ~~rural~~
32 medically underserved population practice or community match loan or income
33 incentive contract.

34
35 SECTION 10. Arkansas Code § 6-81-715 is amended to read as follows:
36 6-81-715. Medical school graduates – Community match contract – Eligibility.

1 (a)(1) The Arkansas ~~Rural~~ Medically Underserved Population Medical
2 Practice Student Loan and Scholarship Board shall administer the Community
3 Match Rural Physician Recruitment Program.

4 (2)(A) Interested ~~rural~~ communities with medically underserved
5 populations may apply to the Arkansas ~~Rural~~ Medically Underserved Population
6 Medical Practice Student Loan and Scholarship Board to participate in the
7 ~~program as a qualified rural community~~ Community Match Rural Physician
8 Recruitment Program.

9 (B) The Arkansas ~~Rural~~ Medically Underserved Population
10 Medical Practice Student Loan and Scholarship Board shall approve a
11 designated representative or representatives of the ~~qualified rural~~ selected
12 community with a medically underserved population to assist the Arkansas
13 ~~Rural~~ Medically Underserved Population Medical Practice Student Loan and
14 Scholarship Board in matters relating to any community match contracts
15 entered into by the Arkansas ~~Rural~~ Medically Underserved Population Medical
16 Practice Student Loan and Scholarship Board and the ~~qualified rural~~ community
17 with a medically underserved population.

18 (b) The Arkansas ~~Rural~~ Medically Underserved Population Medical
19 Practice Student Loan and Scholarship Board, in conjunction with a ~~qualified~~
20 ~~rural~~ community with a medically underserved population, may grant community
21 match income incentives to applicants, each incentive being expressly made
22 subject to § 6-81-716, if it finds that:

23 (1) The applicant is a graduate of:

24 (A) The University of Arkansas College of Medicine or any
25 accredited medical school in the United States; or

26 (B) A foreign medical school if the applicant:

27 (i) Was a resident of Arkansas and citizen of the
28 United States prior to enrollment in the foreign medical school; and

29 (ii) Has been licensed by the Arkansas State Medical
30 Board;

31 (2) The applicant satisfies one (1) of the following criteria:

32 (A) He or she is enrolled in a residency or other training
33 program in an area of primary care medicine; or

34 (B) No more than two (2) years before the date of the
35 application, he or she completed a residency or other training program in an
36 area of primary care medicine;

1 (3) The applicant desires to practice medicine in the ~~qualified~~
 2 ~~rural~~ community with a medically underserved population; and

3 (4) The designated representative or representatives of the
 4 ~~qualified rural~~ community with a medically underserved population approve the
 5 applicant.

6
 7 SECTION 11. Arkansas Code § 6-81-716(a), concerning community match
 8 contracts, is amended to read as follows:

9 (a)(1) The Arkansas ~~Rural~~ Medically Underserved Population Medical
 10 Practice Student Loan and Scholarship Board and a ~~qualified rural~~ community
 11 with a medically underserved population shall enter a joint community match
 12 contract with the applicant.

13 (2) The form of the community match contract shall be approved
 14 by the Attorney General and shall be signed by the Chair of the Arkansas
 15 ~~Rural~~ Medically Underserved Population Medical Practice Student Loan and
 16 Scholarship Board, the Secretary of the Arkansas ~~Rural~~ Medically Underserved
 17 Population Medical Practice Student Loan and Scholarship Board, the
 18 designated representative or representatives of the ~~qualified rural~~ community
 19 with a medically underserved population, and the applicant.

20
 21 SECTION 12. Arkansas Code §§ 6-81-718 - 6-81-720 are amended to read
 22 as follows:

23 6-81-718. Medical school alternates - ~~Rural~~ Medically underserved
 24 population medical practice loans.

25 (a)(1) If an alternate on the waiting list for acceptance to the
 26 College of Medicine of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
 27 demonstrates a willingness to enter into a ~~rural~~ medically underserved
 28 population medical practice loan contract and meets the requirements of § 6-
 29 81-706, the applicant shall be moved to the top of the waiting list upon
 30 entering into a ~~rural~~ medically underserved population medical practice loan
 31 contract.

32 (2) The priority on the waiting list for those alternates who
 33 enter into a ~~rural~~ medically underserved population medical practice loan
 34 contract shall be determined by the date and time such alternate enters into
 35 the rural medical practice loan contract.

36 (b) The college shall meet the requirements set forth at § 6-64-406

1 for allocation of enrollment positions for medical students among
2 congressional districts before accepting for admission an alternate who has
3 entered into a ~~rural~~ medically underserved population medical practice loan
4 contract with the Arkansas ~~Rural~~ Medically Underserved Population Medical
5 Practice Student Loan and Scholarship Board.

6
7 6-81-719. Tracking loan contract compliance.

8 The College of Medicine of the University of Arkansas for Medical
9 Sciences shall track graduates who were recipients of ~~rural~~ medically
10 underserved population medical practice loans for the length of their
11 contractual obligations and shall report to the Legislative Council by
12 October 1 of each even-numbered year regarding the compliance of those
13 graduates with the terms of their contracts.

14
15 6-81-720. ~~Rural~~ Arkansas Medically Underserved Population Medical
16 Practice Student Loan and Scholarship Program administrator.

17 (a) There is established a ~~Rural~~ an Arkansas Medically Underserved
18 Population Medical Practice Student Loan and Scholarship Program
19 administrator.

20 (b) The administrator shall:

21 (1) Be employed by the University of Arkansas for Medical
22 Sciences;

23 (2) Serve as liaison between loan recipients and ~~rural~~
24 communities with medically underserved populations by:

25 (A) Working with the communities to identify their unique
26 needs, to develop profiles of their ideal candidates, and to prepare for
27 recruitment visits; and

28 (B) Assisting medical students and residents to identify
29 medically underserved ~~and other rural~~ communities that suit their personal
30 and medical practice needs and to meet their contractual obligations;

31 (3) Collect and monitor program data, including demographic data
32 of participants and communities, service completion rates, retention rates
33 beyond service completion, satisfaction of obligated physicians and
34 communities, and other information;

35 (4) Prepare annual program evaluations and present the
36 evaluations to the Arkansas ~~Rural~~ Medically Underserved Population Medical

1 Practice Student Loan and Scholarship Board;

2 (5) Assist with preparation and submission of program reports;

3 (6) Attend board meetings in a nonvoting capacity; and

4 (7) Perform other functions assigned by the board.

5
6 SECTION 13. Arkansas Code § 6-81-722 is repealed.

7 ~~6-81-722. Sunset clause.~~

8 ~~(a) Loan recipients enrolled in the Community Match Rural Physician~~
9 ~~Recruitment Program on or before the day before April 4, 2007, shall not have~~
10 ~~their loan contracts impaired by the amendments to the community match~~
11 ~~program.~~

12 ~~(b)(1) Subject to the availability of funds, the loan for the academic~~
13 ~~year shall be renewable annually for the number of years required to complete~~
14 ~~studies leading to the Doctor of Medicine degree or for additional amounts~~
15 ~~not to exceed sixteen thousand five hundred dollars (\$16,500).~~

16 ~~(2) However, all subsequent loans shall be granted only upon~~
17 ~~application by the recipient and a finding by the Arkansas Rural Medical~~
18 ~~Practice Student Loan and Scholarship Board that the applicant:~~

19 ~~(A) Has completed successfully the medical studies of the~~
20 ~~preceding academic year and remains in good standing as an enrolled student~~
21 ~~in the college;~~

22 ~~(B) Is enrolled or participating in a medically~~
23 ~~underserved and rural practice curriculum; and~~

24 ~~(C) Continues to be a resident of Arkansas.~~

25 ~~(c) This section expires on August 31, 2014.~~