

1 State of Arkansas

2 80th General Assembly

3 Regular Session, 1995

4 By: Representative Flanagin

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## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 "AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A GRANT PROGRAM TO ENCOURAGE ADVANCED  
9 PRACTICE NURSES TO PRACTICE IN RURAL AREAS; AND FOR OTHER  
10 PURPOSES."

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### Subtitle

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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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19 SECTION 1. The Advanced Practice Nurse Rural Health Services Grant

20 Program shall be administered by the Office of Rural Health within the

21 Department of Health. The office shall:

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(1) Accept applications for grants hereunder;

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(2) Determine the eligibility of applicants

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(3) Approve or deny grants from any funds available;

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(4) Adopt and enforce appropriate rules and regulations regarding

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forms to be used by applicants for grants, and eligibility of applicants, and

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other regulations as it deems necessary to carry out the purposes and intent

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of the program.

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(5) Develop criteria for evaluating medically underserved areas, which

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shall include but not be limited to:

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(A) Infant mortality rate;

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(B) Percent of population below the poverty level;

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(C) Ratio of primary care providers to population;

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(D) Percent of population and physicians age sixty (60) or over;

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(E) Accessibility of the area to primary care manpower; and

1 (F) Teenage pregnancy rate.

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3 SECTION 2. (a) Any person licensed as an advanced practice nurse in  
4 this state who, subsequent to July 1, 1996, establishes a full-time practice  
5 providing primary care services in a community in Arkansas determined by the  
6 board to be medically underserved due to an unmet need for medical services,  
7 shall be eligible to make application for a grant under this program, and, if  
8 accepted, shall be entitled to receive a grant for each whole calendar year  
9 of eligible full-time practice, not to exceed two (2) years of assistance.

10 (b) The Office of Rural Health may provide financial assistance, in an  
11 amount not to exceed fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) per year for a  
12 maximum of two (2) years of service, to eligible individuals for the  
13 repayment of advanced practice nursing student loans or personal loans made  
14 to or on behalf of an advanced practice nursing student.

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16 SECTION 3. (a) Before the grant may be made, the office shall  
17 determine:

18 (1) Need. Grants will be awarded on the basis of available  
19 funds, with priority given to rural communities having the greatest need. In  
20 the event there are not adequate funds available to make grants to all  
21 eligible applicants, the board shall make the loans to those applicants  
22 which, in the opinion of the board, will serve the more critical rural  
23 medical needs of this state.

24 (2) Eligibility. The applicant shall:

25 (A) Demonstrate readiness to enter into a contract to  
26 serve a proportionate amount of Medicaid patients for the rural community;

27 (B) Demonstrate a willingness to work within the existing  
28 health care system;

29 (C) Practice a minimum of thirty-two (32) hours a week;

30 (D) Not have professional income guarantees from other  
31 sources; and

32 (E) Not have an already established practice, except under  
33 extreme circumstances threatening the continuance of his service to the rural  
34 community.

35 (b) The advanced practice nurse accepting a grant from this program

1 shall enter into an agreement with the board to engage in the delivery of  
2 health services in the designated community for the period for which the  
3 grant is applied.

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5       SECTION 4. There is established on the books of the State Treasurer,  
6 the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, and the State Auditor, a fund to be  
7 known as the "Advanced Practice Nurse Rural Health Services Fund", which will  
8 consist of moneys provided by law to be used solely and exclusively for the  
9 making of loans and grants by the Office of Rural Health to advance practice  
10 nurses who provide primary care services in medically underserved areas of  
11 the state.

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13       SECTION 5. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent  
14 nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas  
15 Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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17       SECTION 6. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to  
18 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect  
19 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without  
20 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this  
21 act are declared to be severable.

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23       SECTION 7. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are  
24 hereby repealed.

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