

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017

A Bill

SENATE BILL 350

4
5 By: Senator B. Sample
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FOR
9 MEDICAL SCIENCES TO ACCOMMODATE A PHYSICIAN REQUIRED
10 TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATION TO MAINTAIN OR
11 OBTAIN A SPECIALTY PRACTICE OF MEDICINE TO COUNTERACT
12 THE PHYSICIAN SHORTAGE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
13

Subtitle

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16 TO REQUIRE THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FOR
17 MEDICAL SCIENCES TO ACCOMMODATE A
18 PHYSICIAN REQUIRED TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL
19 CERTIFICATION TO MAINTAIN OR OBTAIN A
20 SPECIALTY PRACTICE OF MEDICINE TO
21 COUNTERACT THE PHYSICIAN SHORTAGE.
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23

24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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26 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings.

27 The General Assembly finds that:

28 (1) The State of Arkansas is ranked as one (1) of the states
29 with the least number of physicians per capita;

30 (2) In 2014, five thousand eight hundred (5,800) physicians
31 practiced medicine in Arkansas;

32 (3) Of those five thousand eight hundred (5,800) physicians,
33 three (3) out of every ten (10) physicians are at least sixty (60) years of
34 age or older;

35 (4) As physicians retire, the state-wide physician population is
36 getting smaller;



1 (5) Physicians tend to practice in areas where they are educated
2 and where they have received residency training;

3 (6) Without an increase in residency positions within residency
4 programs, graduates of medical schools will bottleneck waiting for residency
5 positions in order to obtain their physician licensure;

6 (7) The Association of American Medical Colleges has predicted a
7 physician shortage across the nation for some time and has called upon the
8 medical schools of this nation to expand the residency positions available;
9 and

10 (8) The State of Arkansas needs to increase residency positions
11 to counteract the physician shortage in the state.

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13 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 64, Subchapter 4, is amended
14 to add an additional section to read as follows:

15 6-64-423. Specialty certification – Unpaid residency position.

16 (a) The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences shall accommodate
17 a physician or other person when the physician or other person is required to
18 obtain additional certification to maintain or obtain a specialty practice of
19 medicine by providing:

20 (1) The opportunity to attend and participate in any courses,
21 seminars, professional development programs, residency programs, and other
22 programs offered by the university in the particular specialty; and

23 (2) Any other educational materials or resources.

24 (b) If the physician or other person must participate in a residency
25 program to fulfill additional certification to maintain or obtain a specialty
26 practice of medicine and all paid residency positions have been filled, the
27 university shall offer an unpaid residency position to the physician or other
28 person.