

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1021

5 By: Representative Cloud
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO CREATE THE FIRST-YEAR MEDICAL STUDENT
9 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ACT; TO CREATE THE FIRST-YEAR
10 MEDICAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP FUND; AND FOR OTHER
11 PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

14 TO CREATE THE FIRST-YEAR MEDICAL STUDENT
15 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ACT; AND TO CREATE
16 THE FIRST-YEAR MEDICAL STUDENT
17 SCHOLARSHIP FUND.
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 82, is amended to add an
24 additional subchapter to read as follows:

25 Subchapter 21 – First-Year Medical Student Scholarship Program
26 6-82-2101. Title.

27 This subchapter shall be known and may be cited as the "First-Year
28 Medical Student Scholarship Program Act".
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30 6-82-2102. Program established – Purpose.

31 (a) There is established the First-Year Medical Student Scholarship
32 Program.

33 (b) The purpose of the program is to encourage individuals who are
34 interested in attending medical school to accelerate and complete their
35 undergraduate education within two (2) years of first enrolling in an
36 accredited institution of higher education.



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2 6-82-2103. Eligibility for scholarship – Amount – Administration.

3 (a) An applicant who meets the requirements under subsection (b) of
4 this section is eligible to receive a First-Year Medical Student Scholarship
5 award of either a one-time:

6 (1) Payment of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000); or

7 (2) Tuition credit in the amount of thirty thousand dollars
8 (\$30,000) to be applied towards the completion of his or her studies leading
9 to the degree of:

10 (A) Doctor of Medicine from the College of Medicine of the
11 University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences; or

12 (B) Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from the Arkansas
13 College of Osteopathic Medicine or the New York Institute of Technology
14 College of Osteopathic Medicine at Arkansas State University.

15 (b) To be eligible for the scholarship award under subsection (a) of
16 this section, an applicant shall:

17 (1) Be a resident of Arkansas;

18 (2) Need financial assistance to complete his or her studies
19 leading to the degree of:

20 (A) Doctor of Medicine from the College of Medicine of the
21 University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences; or

22 (B) Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from the Arkansas
23 College of Osteopathic Medicine or the New York Institute of Technology
24 College of Osteopathic Medicine at Arkansas State University;

25 (3) Be of good moral character and have the talent and capacity
26 to benefit from the study of medicine, provide quality care to patients, and
27 contribute to the advancement of medicine and public health;

28 (4) Be enrolled at the:

29 (A) College of Medicine of the University of Arkansas for
30 Medical Sciences;

31 (B) Arkansas College of Osteopathic Medicine; or

32 (C) New York Institute of Technology College of
33 Osteopathic Medicine at Arkansas State University;

34 (5) Have earned a bachelor's degree from an accredited
35 institution of higher education within two (2) years of his or her first
36 enrolling in an institution of higher education;

1 (6) Within one (1) year of earning his or her bachelor's degree
2 from an accredited institution of higher education, have enrolled in the:

3 (A) College of Medicine of the University of Arkansas for
4 Medical Sciences;

5 (B) Arkansas College of Osteopathic Medicine; or

6 (C) New York Institute of Technology College of
7 Osteopathic Medicine at Arkansas State University; and

8 (7) Have successfully completed his or her first year of medical
9 school at the:

10 (A) College of Medicine of the University of Arkansas for
11 Medical Sciences;

12 (B) Arkansas College of Osteopathic Medicine; or

13 (C) New York Institute of Technology College of
14 Osteopathic Medicine at Arkansas State University.

15 (c) A recipient of a scholarship awarded under this section shall not
16 be required to repay any of the amount he or she receives.

17 (d)(1) Subject to the availability of funds, a scholarship under this
18 section shall be awarded to each eligible applicant.

19 (2) If sufficient funds are not available to fully fund a
20 scholarship award to each eligible applicant under this section, a
21 scholarship shall be awarded to an eligible applicant on a first-come, first-
22 served basis.

23 (e) All payments of scholarships awarded under this section shall be
24 drawn from funds disbursed by the Division of Higher Education as provided
25 for in the Higher Education Grants Fund Account for the First-Year Medical
26 Student Scholarship Program.

27 (f) The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences shall:

28 (1) Administer the First-Year Medical Student Scholarship
29 Program for the College of Medicine of the University of Arkansas for Medical
30 Sciences;

31 (2) Subject to the availability of funds, award scholarships
32 under the program to eligible applicants who attend the College of Medicine
33 of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences; and

34 (3) Promulgate rules for the administration of the program at
35 the College of Medicine of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

36 (g) The Osteopathic Rural Medical Practice Student Loan and

1 Scholarship Board shall:

2 (1) Administer the program for the Arkansas College of
 3 Osteopathic Medicine and the New York Institute of Technology College of
 4 Osteopathic Medicine at Arkansas State University;

5 (2) Subject to the availability of funds, award scholarships
 6 under the program to eligible applicants who attend the Arkansas College of
 7 Osteopathic Medicine or the New York Institute of Technology College of
 8 Osteopathic Medicine at Arkansas State University; and

9 (3) Promulgate rules for the administration of the program at
 10 the Arkansas College of Osteopathic Medicine and the New York Institute of
 11 Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine at Arkansas State University.

12 (h)(1) After the College of Medicine of the University of Arkansas for
 13 Medical Sciences or the Osteopathic Rural Medical Practice Student Loan and
 14 Scholarship Board determine that an applicant meets the requirements to
 15 receive a scholarship under the program and the amount of the scholarship to
 16 be awarded to the applicant, the College of Medicine of the University of
 17 Arkansas for Medical Sciences or the Osteopathic Rural Medical Practice
 18 Student Loan and Scholarship Board shall submit a letter to the Division of
 19 Higher Education stating that the applicant meets the requirements to receive
 20 a scholarship under the program and the amount of the scholarship to be
 21 awarded to the applicant.

22 (2)(A) Subject to the availability of funds, the division shall
 23 disburse the funds and shall award scholarships from the Higher Education
 24 Grants Fund Account in the order in which the division receives a letter
 25 submitted under subdivision (h)(1) of this section from the College of
 26 Medicine of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences or the
 27 Osteopathic Rural Medical Practice Student Loan and Scholarship Board.

28 (B) The division may disburse a scholarship award directly
 29 to an applicant who meets the requirements to receive a scholarship under the
 30 program.

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 32 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 19-5-302(11)(B), concerning the State
 33 General Government Fund, is amended to read as follows:

34 (B) The Higher Education Grants Fund Account shall consist
 35 of:

36 (i) ~~transfers~~ Transfers from the Private Career

1 School Student Protection Trust Fund under § 6-51-607 ~~and those general~~
2 ~~revenues and any other funds as may be provided by law;~~

3 (ii) Transfers, grants, contributions, or gratuities
4 received from private persons or corporations for the First-Year Medical
5 Student Scholarship Program or any other health education grant and loan
6 programs to be held in a subaccount of the Higher Education Grants Fund
7 Account exclusively for that purpose;

8 (iii) Those general revenues as may be provided by
9 law; and

10 (iv) Any other funds as may be provided by law.

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