

AN ACT

ENTITLED, An Act to revise certain provisions of the physician tuition reimbursement program and the medical education scholarship program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

Section 1. That § 1-16A-71.1 be amended to read as follows:

1-16A-71.1. A physician is eligible to receive tuition reimbursement payments pursuant to the provisions of §§ 1-16A-71.1, 1-16A-72.1, and 1-16A-73.1 to 1-16A-73.5, inclusive, if the physician is licensed to practice medicine pursuant to chapter 36-4 and has completed a two-year or three-year accredited residency program in family practice and if the physician agrees to practice as a family physician in an eligible community for a minimum period of three years. However, no more than ten physicians may participate in this program at any specified time. Preference shall be given to physicians who have graduated from the University of South Dakota School of Medicine and completed an accredited family practice residency program located in South Dakota.

Section 2. That § 1-16A-72.1 be amended to read as follows:

1-16A-72.1. For purposes of §§ 1-16A-71.1, 1-16A-72.1, and 1-16A-73.1 to 1-16A-73.5, inclusive, an eligible community is any community in this state which:

- (1) Has a population of ten thousand persons or less;
- (2) Agrees to provide its portion of the tuition reimbursement payments payable to a physician who practices in the community as required by §§ 1-16A-71.1, 1-16A-72.1, and 1-16A-73.1 to 1-16A-73.5, inclusive; and
- (3) Is determined to be eligible by the Department of Health.

Before making a determination under subdivision (3) of this section, the Department of Health shall conduct a community assessment designed to evaluate the community's need for a physician and its ability to sustain and support a family physician. The department shall maintain a list of communities which have been assessed and which are eligible for participation in the tuition

reimbursement program established by §§ 1-16A-71.1, 1-16A-72.1, and 1-16A-73.1 to 1-16A-73.5, inclusive. The department may revise any community assessment or conduct a new assessment as necessary to reflect any change in conditions within a community.

Section 3. That § 1-16A-73.1 be amended to read as follows:

1-16A-73.1. A physician who fulfills the requirements of §§ 1-16A-71.1, 1-16A-72.1, and 1-16A-73.1 to 1-16A-73.5, inclusive, is entitled to receive tuition reimbursement in an amount equal to twice the University of South Dakota resident tuition which the physician would have paid if such physician had attended the University of South Dakota School of Medicine during the four most recently completed academic years. The amount of reimbursement does not include any interest incurred by a physician.

Section 4. That § 1-16A-73.2 be amended to read as follows:

1-16A-73.2. Any agreement for the payment of tuition reimbursement pursuant to §§ 1-16A-71.1, 1-16A-72.1, and 1-16A-73.1 to 1-16A-73.5, inclusive, shall obligate the community to be served by a physician to provide a portion of the total amount of tuition reimbursement, based on the following criteria: communities of two thousand five hundred persons or less shall provide twenty-five percent of tuition reimbursement payments; communities of more than two thousand five hundred persons and less than five thousand persons shall provide fifty percent of tuition reimbursement payments; and all remaining eligible communities shall provide seventy-five percent of tuition reimbursement payments. When the community certifies to the secretary of health that it has paid the full amount for which it is obligated, the secretary of the Department of Health shall pay to the physician the remaining balance of the total tuition reimbursement amount. The secretary shall pay the required amount out of funds appropriated by the Legislature for such purpose. Reimbursement shall be paid upon the physician's completion of the required three-year practice period. However, a community may pay its share of tuition reimbursement in installments during the required three-year period.

Section 5. That § 1-16A-73.5 be amended to read as follows:

1-16A-73.5. No person may participate in the tuition reimbursement program established by §§ 1-16A-71.1, 1-16A-72.1, and 1-16A-73.1 to 1-16A-73.5, inclusive, if the person has previously participated in such program, or any other state or federal scholarship, loan repayment, or tuition reimbursement program which obligates the person to provide medical services within an underserved area.

Section 6. That chapter 13-56C be amended by adding thereto a NEW SECTION to read as follows:

No student may receive a medical education scholarship for the 1997-1998 academic year or thereafter unless the student had previously received such scholarship.

Section 7. The provisions of chapter 13-56C are repealed effective July 1, 2000. This repeal does not release any liability incurred under that chapter, which shall be treated as still remaining in force for the purpose of sustaining any proper action or prosecution for the enforcement of the liability.

Section 8. That chapter 1-16A be amended by adding thereto a NEW SECTION to read as follows:

For the purposes of determining eligibility under this chapter, the term, community, means a municipality as defined by § 9-1-1.

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I certify that the attached Act originated in the

SENATE as Bill No. 263

Secretary of the Senate

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President of the Senate

Attest:

Secretary of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Attest:

Chief Clerk

Senate Bill No. 263
File No. _____
Chapter No. _____

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Received at this Executive Office this ____ day of _____ ,

19__ at ____ M.

By _____
for the Governor

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The attached Act is hereby approved this _____ day of _____ , A.D., 19__

Governor

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STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA,
ss.

Office of the Secretary of State

Filed _____ , 19__
at _____ o'clock __ M.

Secretary of State

By _____
Asst. Secretary of State