

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 906

101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE MORSE.

2055H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 191, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to a rural primary care physician grant program.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 191, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 191.620, to read as follows:

191.620. 1. For purposes of this section, the following terms mean:

(1) "Department", the department of health and senior services;

(2) "Primary care physician", a physician licensed and registered under chapter 334 engaged in general or family practice;

(3) "Rural county", a county in Missouri with fewer than thirty-five thousand inhabitants.

2. Subject to appropriation, the department shall establish a rural primary care physician grant program to provide incentives to primary care physicians to practice and reside in rural counties. The department shall award grants to eligible primary care physicians on the basis of available funds, with priority given to primary care physicians practicing in rural counties having the greatest need.

3. Any primary care physician who begins practice as a primary care physician in a rural county after August 28, 2021, who resides in such rural county, and who is willing to enter into a grant agreement under the terms outlined in subsection 4 of this section shall be eligible to receive a grant under this section. The department shall post on its website the eligibility criteria outlined in this section, the contents of the grant application, and the procedures and timelines by which primary care physicians may apply for grants.

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

18 **4. The department shall enter into a grant agreement with each primary care**
19 **physician to whom it awards a grant under this section. The grant agreement shall be in**
20 **writing and shall contain:**

21 **(1) A provision that the primary care physician agrees to reside and practice as a**
22 **primary care physician in a rural county for a continuous five-year period and the state**
23 **agrees to pay the primary care physician ten thousand dollars each year of such five-year**
24 **period, with such period of residence and practice to begin immediately;**

25 **(2) A provision that any obligations arising out of the agreement entered into under**
26 **subdivision (1) of this subsection are contingent upon funds being appropriated for grant**
27 **payments;**

28 **(3) A provision identifying the rural county where the primary care physician will**
29 **practice and reside;**

30 **(4) A statement of the damages to which the state is entitled for the primary care**
31 **physician's breach of the grant agreement; and**

32 **(5) Such other statements of the rights and liabilities of the department and of the**
33 **primary care physician not inconsistent with this section.**

34 **5. If an individual breaches the written grant agreement by failing either to begin**
35 **the five-year period of residence and practice or to complete the five-year period of**
36 **residence and practice, the state shall be entitled to recover from the individual an amount**
37 **equal to the sum of:**

38 **(1) The total of the amounts paid by the state to the individual under the grant**
39 **agreement;**

40 **(2) An amount equal to any damages incurred by the department as a result of the**
41 **breach; and**

42 **(3) Any legal fees or associated costs incurred by the department or the state in the**
43 **collection of damages.**

44 **6. This section shall not be construed to require the department to enter into grant**
45 **agreements with primary care physicians who are eligible for grants under this section if**
46 **state funds are not available for such purpose.**

47 **7. (1) There is hereby created in the state treasury the "Rural Primary Care**
48 **Physician Grant Program Fund", which shall consist of moneys appropriated to it by the**
49 **general assembly. The state treasurer shall be custodian of the fund. In accordance with**
50 **sections 30.170 and 30.180, the state treasurer may approve disbursements. The fund shall**
51 **be a dedicated fund and, upon appropriation, moneys in the fund shall be used solely for**
52 **awarding grants and administering the grant program described in this section.**

53 **(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080 to the contrary, any moneys**
54 **remaining in the fund at the end of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the**
55 **general revenue fund.**

56 **(3) The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund in the same manner as other**
57 **funds are invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be credited**
58 **to the fund.**

59 **8. The department may promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this**
60 **section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is**
61 **created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it**
62 **complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable,**
63 **section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable, and if any of the powers**
64 **vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective**
65 **date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the**
66 **grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2021,**
67 **shall be invalid and void.**

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