

As Introduced

131st General Assembly

Regular Session

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S. B. No. 66

Senator Tavares

Cosponsors: Senators Thomas, Skindell

A BILL

To enact sections 4782.01, 4782.02, 4782.03, 1
4782.04, 4782.05, 4782.06, 4782.07, 4782.08, and 2
4782.09 of the Revised Code to require the 3
Director of Health to establish the Ohio Health 4
Care Professional Loan Repayment Program. 5

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 4782.01, 4782.02, 4782.03, 6
4782.04, 4782.05, 4782.06, 4782.07, 4782.08, and 4782.09 of the 7
Revised Code be enacted to read as follows: 8

Sec. 4782.01. As used in sections 4782.01 to 4782.09 of 10
the Revised Code: 11

(A) "Primary care specialty" means all of the following: 12

(1) In the case of a physician or physician assistant, 13
family practice, obstetrics and gynecology, general internal 14
medicine, geriatrics, pediatrics, and psychiatry; 15

(2) In the case of a certified nurse practitioner, adult 16
practice, family practice, pediatrics, psychiatric-mental 17

health, geriatrics, and women's health; 18

(3) In the case of a dentist, general dentistry and 19
pediatric dentistry. 20

(B) "Qualifying educational loans" means outstanding 21
government or commercial loans for undergraduate or graduate 22
education that are obtained and used solely for tuition and 23
other reasonable educational expenses and for reasonable living 24
expenses. 25

Sec. 4782.02. The director of health shall establish and 26
administer the Ohio health care professional loan repayment 27
program, which shall be modeled on the national health services 28
corps loan repayment program. To the extent funds are available, 29
the program shall provide grants to health care professionals to 30
assist in repayment of qualifying educational loans. 31

The program shall be in addition to and administered 32
separately from the physician loan repayment program established 33
under sections 3702.71 to 3702.81 of the Revised Code, the 34
dentist loan repayment program established under sections 35
3702.85 to 3702.95 of the Revised Code, and the dental hygienist 36
loan repayment program established under sections 3702.96 to 37
3702.967 of the Revised Code. 38

Sec. 4782.03. The director of health may solicit and 39
accept gifts and grants to be used for the Ohio health care 40
professional loan repayment program. Any gifts or grants, 41
application fees, amounts received due to failure to complete 42
service obligations, and amounts appropriated by the general 43
assembly shall be deposited into the state treasury to the 44
credit of the health care professional loan repayment program 45
fund, which is hereby created. 46

Sec. 4782.04. The director of health shall adopt rules, as 47
specified in this section, for the administration of the Ohio 48
health care professional loan repayment program. The director 49
may adopt any other rules the director considers appropriate for 50
the administration of the program. 51

The rules shall establish the amounts of the grants to be 52
made to participants, service obligations required of 53
participants, and monetary penalties for failure to complete 54
service obligations. The rules may provide for varying grant 55
amounts based on the length of service obligations and whether 56
the service is to be full-time or part-time. 57

The rules shall specify the information and supporting 58
documentation that must be provided by applicants for 59
participation in the program. The rules may establish 60
application fees. 61

All rules shall be adopted in accordance with Chapter 119. 62
of the Revised Code. 63

Sec. 4782.05. The director of health may designate as a 64
health service site for the purposes of the Ohio health care 65
professional loan repayment program any health care facility 66
that provides outpatient primary health services to persons 67
residing in urban or rural health resource shortage areas 68
designated under section 3702.76 of the Revised Code. 69

Sec. 4782.06. The director of health shall accept and 70
consider an application for the Ohio health care professional 71
loan repayment program from any of the following health care 72
professionals who are authorized to practice in this state: 73

(A) A physician who practices a primary care specialty and 74
has one of the following qualifications: 75

<u>(1) Certification in a primary care specialty from a specialty board approved by the American board of medical specialties or the American osteopathic association;</u>	76
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<u>(2) Has completed, or will complete prior to commencing service, a residency program approved by the accreditation council for graduate medical education or the American osteopathic association in a primary care specialty.</u>	79
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<u>(B) A physician assistant who practices under the supervision of a physician who practices a primary care specialty;</u>	83
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<u>(C) A certified nurse practitioner who practices a primary care specialty;</u>	86
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<u>(D) A certified nurse-midwife;</u>	88
<u>(E) A clinical nurse specialist who specializes in psychiatric or mental health services;</u>	89
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<u>(F) A dentist who practices a primary care specialty;</u>	91
<u>(G) A dental hygienist;</u>	92
<u>(H) An independent marriage and family therapist;</u>	93
<u>(I) A licensed professional clinical counselor;</u>	94
<u>(J) A licensed independent social worker;</u>	95
<u>(K) A psychologist who has passed the examination for professional practice of psychology.</u>	96
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<u>Sec. 4782.07. To be eligible to participate in the Ohio health care professional loan repayment program, a health care professional must meet all of the following requirements:</u>	98
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<u>(A) Be a citizen or national of the United States by birth</u>	101

or naturalization; 102

(B) Participate or be eligible to participate as a 103
provider in one or more of the following: medicare, medicaid, 104
and the children's health insurance program; 105

(C) Have accepted a position at a health service site 106
designated by the director of health under section 4782.05 of 107
the Revised Code; 108

(D) Not have any outstanding service obligation for health 109
professional or other service to the federal government or 110
another entity that will not be completed before participation 111
in the program begins; 112

(E) Not be in breach of a health professional service 113
obligation to the federal government or a state or local 114
government; 115

(F) Not be excluded, debarred, suspended, or disqualified 116
by a federal agency for misconduct. 117

Sec. 4782.08. Application for the Ohio health care 118
professional loan repayment program shall be made on a form 119
developed and provided by the department of health. An 120
application is complete only if it includes all information and 121
supporting documentation required by rules adopted under section 122
4782.04 of the Revised Code. The application must be accompanied 123
by any fee required by those rules. 124

Sec. 4782.09. The director of health shall consider each 125
qualified applicant for the Ohio health care professional loan 126
repayment program on the basis of the applicant's ability and 127
commitment to service to the medically underserved in health 128
shortage areas. The director shall select the program's 129
participants. The director shall determine the amount of each 130

grant and each participant's service obligation in accordance 131
with rules adopted under section 4782.04 of the Revised Code. 132

A health care professional who accepts a grant from the 133
program shall fulfill the service obligation specified by the 134
director. A health care professional who fails to fulfill a 135
service obligation without good cause shall repay the amount 136
accepted and pay the monetary penalty specified in rules adopted 137
under section 4782.04 of the Revised Code. The director shall 138
determine whether there is good cause for failure to complete a 139
service obligation. The director's decision is final. 140