## 1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 55th Legislature (2016)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR ENGROSSED 4 SENATE BILL NO. 1526

By: Yen of the Senate

and

Cox of the House

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## 9 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to the Physician Manpower Training Commission; amending 63 O.S. 2011, Sections 1-2721 and 1-2723, which relate to the Oklahoma Medical Loan Repayment Program; modifying period for participating physician performance review; modifying conditions requiring loan repayment; clarifying references; limiting utilization of certain funds related to certain programs; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Sections 625.3, 625.4, 625.4a, as amended by Section 614, Chapter 304, O.S.L. 2012, 625.5, 625.6, 625.9 and 625.13 (70 O.S. Supp. 2015, Section 625.4a), which relate to the Oklahoma Rural Medical Education Loan and Scholarship Fund; modifying terms and conditions governing certain scholarships; clarifying references; limiting reception of funds by the Physician Manpower Training Commission Revolving Fund; requiring certain signature on certain contract; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 697.2, Sections 697.10, 697.11, 697.17 and 697.21, as amended by Sections 617, 618, 619 and 622, Chapter 304, O.S.L. 2012 and Section 697.20 (70 O.S. Supp. 2015, Sections 697.10, 697.11, 697.17 and 697.21), which relate to the Physician Manpower Training Commission administration and programs; clarifying references; modifying repayment terms for noncompliant recipient of Nursing Student Assistance Program funds; and declaring an emergency.

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:
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- 2 | SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 63 O.S. 2011, Section 1-2721, is
- 3 | amended to read as follows:
- 4 Section 1-2721. A. 1. The Physician Manpower Training
- 5 | Commission shall administer the Oklahoma Medical Loan Repayment
- 6 Program.

- 7 2. For the purposes of this section, "primary care physicians"
- 8 | shall mean physicians practicing in family medicine, geriatrics,
- 9 general internal medicine, general pediatrics,
- 10 | obstetrics/gynecology, or emergency medicine.
- 11 3. The Program, depending upon and limited to available
- 12 | funding, shall provide educational loan repayment assistance to
- 13 Oklahoma licensed primary care physicians who agree to establish a
- 14 practice in a community located in Oklahoma approved by the
- 15 | Commission.
- 16 4. Each award shall be for a contracted period and shall be
- 17 distributed to the participant by drafts made payable to the
- 18 participant at the end of each contract year with disbursements not
- 19 to exceed an amount to be established annually by the Commission.
- 20 Prior to any disbursement, the Commission shall certify and properly
- 21 review reports submitted by the participating physician detailing
- 22 performance of activities in accordance with the Program.
- 5. At the conclusion of an initial two-year period, the
- 24 | Commission shall review the performance in the Program of the

participating physician and determine whether an award may be granted for additional years pursuant to rules promulgated by the Commission.

- B. The physicians entering the Program each year shall agree to provide medical care and services in areas designated by the Commission to provide medical care and services to Medicaid recipients as authorized by the Oklahoma Health Care Authority.
- C. A physician shall be eligible to participate in the loan repayment program if the physician:
  - 1. Is licensed to practice medicine in Oklahoma;
- 2. Is a new primary care residency graduate. Preference will be given to graduates of the primary care residency programs affiliated with the Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine, the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine and the teaching hospitals affiliated with both schools of medicine; or
- 3. Is a current practicing physician and has met criteria established by the Commission.
- D. The physician shall agree to practice in the designated need areas identified by the Commission for no fewer than two (2) consecutive years as a condition of the loan repayment. If the physician does not fulfill the service obligation, the Commission may collect from the participant the entire amount of loan payments made under the Program plus interest.

E. The Commission shall present a report on the operation of the Program to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate within one (1) month of the beginning of each regular session of the Legislature, including but not limited to the progress made in accomplishing the goal of the Program.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 63 O.S. 2011, Section 1-2723, is amended to read as follows:

Section 1-2723. A. The Physician Manpower Training Commission shall have the option of utilizing available funding in excess of the amount necessary to fund the Oklahoma Medical Loan Repayment Program described in Section 1-2721 of Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes this title to fund new or expanded primary care residency programs in rural and underserved areas of the state. Such new or expanded primary care residency program funding shall include but not be limited to:

- 1. Payments to hospitals desiring to establish new primary care residency programs. Such payments shall be made to cover the costs of salaries, benefits and educational costs of residents in training at the facility; or
- 2. Payments to hospitals with existing primary residency programs desiring to expand the number of residents participating in those programs. Such payments shall be made to cover the costs of

salaries, benefits and educational costs of residents in training at the facility; or

- 3. Payments of stipends to residents of new or existing primary care residency programs in exchange for a commitment to serve in a rural or underserved area of the state as designated by the Commission.
- B. Provisions of this section shall be subject to the promulgated rules of the Commission.
- SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 625.3, is amended to read as follows:

Section 625.3 A. The terms and conditions governing the scholarships shall be as prescribed and formulated by the Physician Manpower Training Commission, but shall include the condition that each recipient, upon completion of his course of study, shall repay his scholarship by practicing his profession in a rural community in Oklahoma having a population of seven thousand five hundred (7,500) persons or less according to the last preceding United States

Decennial Census and having a need therefor, as determined by the Commission, for one (1) year for each one (1) year the scholarship is financed; provided, however, that the recipient will be given no credit for payment and reduction of said obligation by serving in the defined rural communities for a period less than two (2) years.

B. The terms of this subsection shall apply to recipients who accept assistance before July 1, 1993. The contract shall provide

that in the event the recipient breaches the terms of the contract by not serving the designated community for the specified period of time he shall pay liquidated damages in an amount agreed upon by the Commission and the recipient and representing a reasonable estimate of the damage or loss to the community or the state. Said damages shall not exceed one hundred percent (100%) of the principal. After payment of the liquidated damages, repayment of the principal may be made in cash with interest at the rate of twelve percent (12%) per annum, said interest to accrue from the date each payment is made pursuant to the scholarship. No interest however shall accrue during any one period of time that the recipient thereof is required to serve in the Armed Forces of the United States or during any period of internship.

C. The terms of this subsection shall apply to recipients who accept assistance on or after July 1, 1993. The contract shall provide that in the event the recipient breaches the terms of the contract by not serving the designated community for the specified period of time, the Commission shall be entitled to recover an amount equal to three (3) times the principal disbursed, pursuant to the contract, plus interest. Interest on all amounts paid to or on behalf of the participant shall be computed at the current prime rate plus one percent (1%) with said interest to accrue from the date each payment is made, pursuant to the contract. The amount the Commission is entitled to recover shall be paid within ninety (90)

days of the date the recipient becomes liable as determined by the Commission.

SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 625.4, is amended to read as follows:

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Section 625.4 The Physician Manpower Training Commission shall promulgate and adopt such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this act. The Commission shall prescribe the form and regulate the submission of applications for scholarship; conduct conferences and interviews with applicants; determine the eligibility of applicants; allow or disallow all applications for scholarships or renewal of scholarships; contract, increase, decrease, terminate and otherwise regulate all grants for scholarships and their repayment in cash or services; and manage, operate and control all funds and property appropriated or otherwise contributed for this purpose. The Commission may acquire property or money by the acceptance of gifts, grants, bequests or devise, and may contract with the federal government in order to secure the benefit of any federal program consistent with the provisions of this act. Monies received by the Commission in repayment of scholarships granted from appropriated funds shall be deposited with the State Treasurer who shall place the same to the credit of the Commission in depository funds to be known as the "Rural Medical Education Scholarship Fund" and the "Community Physician Education Scholarship Fund" depending on the program in which the recipient

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    participated, under and subject exclusively to the control of the
    Commission for the purpose of fulfilling and accomplishing the
    conditions and purposes of the Physician Manpower Training
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    Commission. All monies so collected and deposited in the State
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    Treasury as aforesaid shall constitute a continuing fund, shall not
    be subject to fiscal limitations, and the unexpended balance shall
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    at all times be available for expenditures for the purposes and in
    the manner and form provided by this act. All funds and property,
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    and income therefrom, received by the Commission through the
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    acceptance of gifts, grants, bequests or devise shall be held by the
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    Commission in trust, and may be sold, transferred, invested and
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    reinvested by the Commission in accordance with the provisions of
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    the Oklahoma Trust Act, and all such funds and property, and income
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    therefrom, shall be used by the Commission in fulfilling and
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    accomplishing the conditions and purposes of the Physician Manpower
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SECTION 5. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 625.4a, as amended by Section 614, Chapter 304, O.S.L. 2012 (70 O.S. Supp. 2015, Section 625.4a), is amended to read as follows:

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Training Commission.

Section 625.4a There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund for the Physician Manpower Training Commission to be designated the "Physician Manpower Training Commission Revolving Fund". The fund shall be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations and shall consist of all payments received by the

1 Commission pursuant to Sections Section 625.3 and 625.10a of this title and all payments received by the Commission pursuant to the 3 Allied Health Placement Program and the Nursing Home Demonstration 4 Program of this title. All monies accruing to the credit of the 5 fund are hereby appropriated and may be budgeted and expended by the Physician Manpower Training Commission for any expenses incurred in 6 7 the implementation of its duties. Expenditures from the fund shall be made upon warrants issued by the State Treasurer against claims 8 9 filed as prescribed by law with the Director of the Office of 10 Management and Enterprise Services for approval and payment. 11 AMENDATORY SECTION 6. 70 O.S. 2011, Section 625.5, is

SECTION 6. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 625.5, is amended to read as follows:

Section 625.5 A. An applicant may be eligible for the award of a scholarship upon demonstration that the applicant:

- 1. Desires a scholarship to any accredited school of medicine or school of osteopathic medicine in the United States of America;
  - 2. Is a bona fide resident of Oklahoma;

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- 3. Has personal financial resources such that, in the absence of scholarship aid, will be unable to pursue the program of study desired;
  - 4. Is a person of good moral character;
- 5. Has successfully completed the program of instruction prerequisite for admission to the program of study provided for in

Section 625.1 et seq. of this title and has applied for admission to a medical school;

- 6. Has capacity to profit by the course of study for which the applicant seeks aid;
- 7. Desires to practice medicine in a rural community in Oklahoma; and

8. Submits proof that the applicant has not accepted or will not accept any other scholarship assistance which has a conflicting service obligation requirement.

In determining an applicant's capacity to profit by the course of study desired, the <u>Physician Manpower Training</u> Commission shall consider the applicant's previous scholastic record, the results of examinations conducted under the provisions of Section 625.1 et seq. of this title, and the results of interviews and such other tests or examinations which the Commission may deem advisable. In establishing an applicant's financial need, the Commission shall conduct a thorough and complete investigation of the financial resources of the applicant and family.

B. The amount of each scholarship grant shall not exceed Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) per academic year for students engaged in their first, second, third or fourth year of study, or equivalent number of terms completed in an education program in a given period of months.

- C. The method of payment of funds to each recipient of a scholarship grant shall be in accordance with rules formulated by the Commission governing the grants for each type of scholarship.
- D. Each scholarship is renewable annually for the number of years required to complete the course of study in which the recipient is engaged. The Commission shall grant such an annual renewal only upon the recipient's application and upon the Commission's finding that the recipient:
- 1. Has completed successfully the work of the preceding year and presented evidence that the recipient is a student in good standing;
  - 2. Remains a resident of Oklahoma; and

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- 3. Is in a financial situation that warrants the award of a scholarship under the standards set forth in Section 625.1 et seq. of this title.
- E. The Commission shall make an annual report to the Governor and Legislature on the activities of the Commission. This report shall include the names of the recipients of the scholarships, the amount of the scholarship awards, an accounting of the funds expended on scholarships and on the administration of the program and a budget requesting the funds necessary for the operation of the Commission. The report shall also include an accounting of repayments of scholarships, whether by services or in cash including interest.

SECTION 7. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 625.6, is amended to read as follows:

Section 625.6 Each applicant, before being granted a scholarship, shall enter into a contract with the <a href="Physician Manpower Training">Physician Manpower Training</a> Commission agreeing to the terms and conditions upon which the scholarship shall be granted to <a href="https://doi.org/10.2016/j.com/html">https://doi.org/10.2016/j.com/html</a>. Said contract shall include such terms and provisions as will carry out the full purpose and intent of this act and the form thereof shall be prepared and approved by the Attorney General. Said contracts

The contract shall be signed by the Secretary Director on behalf of the Commission and by the applicant. The Commission is hereby vested with full and complete authority and power to sue in its own name any applicant for any balance due the Commission on any contract. The Commission shall have authority to cancel any contract made between it and any recipient of a scholarship upon cause deemed sufficient by the Commission.

SECTION 8. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 625.9, is amended to read as follows:

Section 625.9 The administration of the Oklahoma Rural Medical Education Loan and Scholarship Fund is hereby transferred to the Physician Manpower Training Commission as established by law. All the powers, duties, responsibilities, rules and regulations and functions of the Board of Trustees of the Oklahoma Rural Medical Education Scholarship Fund are hereby transferred to the Physician

- 1 Manpower Training Commission and the Board of Trustees of the 2 Oklahoma Rural Medical Education Scholarship Fund is hereby abolished and terminated. 3
- SECTION 9. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 625.13, is 4 5 amended to read as follows:

Section 625.13 A. There is hereby created the "Community Match Rural Scholarship Incentive Program" which shall be conducted and administered by the Physician Manpower Training Commission. purpose of this program is to provide for the fair and necessary distribution of funds allocated to it by the Legislature to provide monies to the following programs under the Physician Manpower

- 12 Training Commission:
- 1.3 The Community Matching Intern/Resident Program;
- 14 2. The Oklahoma Rural Medical Education Loan Scholarship
- 15 Program;

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- 3. The Family/General Practice Resident Rural Scholarship Loan Program, created pursuant to this section; and
- 18 The Family/General Practice Residency Grant Program, created 19 pursuant to this section.

20 The Physician Manpower Training Commission is hereby authorized 21 to distribute such monies to the funds specified in Sections 625.1, 22 625.4a and 697.18 of this title necessary to fund the programs 23 specified in this section.

B. The Physician Manpower Training Commission shall establish and administer a Family/General Practice Resident Rural Scholarship Loan Program for the purpose of assisting Oklahoma's rural communities by providing financial assistance through a scholarship loan forgiveness program to residents enrolled in an accredited Family Practice or General Practice residency program. The Commission shall establish the eligibility standards, the amount of the loan not to exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) per month, the service obligation of the recipient of the loan, and any penalties related to the breach of the service contract or failure to repay such loan plus interest and penalty.

C. The Physician Manpower Training Commission shall establish and administer a Family/General Practice Residency Grant Program for the purpose of assisting Oklahoma's rural communities by providing financial assistance through a grant program to residents enrolled in an accredited Family Practice or General Practice residency program. The Commission shall establish the eligibility standards, the amount of the grant not to exceed Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) per year, up to three (3) years, the program obligations of the recipient of the grant, and any penalties related to the breach of the grant obligations or failure to repay the grant plus interest.

SECTION 10. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 697.2, is amended to read as follows:

Section 697.2 There is hereby re-created the The Physician Manpower Training Commission, hereafter referred to as the Commission, is authorized to establish and administer cost-sharing programs for internship and residency physician training, which Commission shall provide for state assistance by sharing the cost on a percentage basis, as may be prescribed by law or as determined by the Commission, of the salary, fringe benefits, training and program administration of the interns and residents as may be arranged by contract for reimbursement with an accredited and approved hospital and accredited clinical programs throughout the state in cooperation with the Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine, which physician training institutions in the state shall serve as the administrative agent for internship and residency programs which are located in hospitals and clinical training programs throughout the state, which programs are affiliated with said institutions and approved for funding by the Commission. The Commission shall conduct the planning, coordination and selection of said training programs to assure the effective and efficient operation of these programs. Not less than fifty percent (50%) of the subsidy for these programs shall be used in the training of primary health care and family/general practice physicians for the rural and medically underserved areas of the state. Provided that such subsidy may be used for the primary purpose of increasing the total number of residencies funded by the State of Oklahoma, wherever located within

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1 the state, during that period in which residency programs are being established in rural areas; provided further, that as said residency 3 programs are established and accredited in rural hospitals, residency positions in such programs shall be first provided for by 5 the Commission. The Commission shall present a report to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the 6 7 President Pro Tempore of the Senate within one (1) month of the beginning of each regular legislative session on the operation of the programs including the progress made in accomplishing the goals 10 of physician training as to type of specialties and manpower 11 placement of the kind necessary to provide adequate health care to 12 the people throughout the State of Oklahoma. The subsidy to the 13 participating hospital, clinical situation or training institution 14 per resident or intern shall not exceed any maximum or minimum 15 amount as may be prescribed by law or as determined by the 16 Commission. The actual amount of subsidy for physician training 17 program situations shall be based upon a determination by the 18 Commission of:

1. The type of primary care residency and internship programs involved and being conducted;

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- 2. The extent of reimbursement available through third-party payers and all other sources; and
- 3. The program and salary costs incurred in the given training situation.

1 SECTION 11. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 697.10, as 2 amended by Section 617, Chapter 304, O.S.L. 2012 (70 O.S. Supp. 2015, Section 697.10), is amended to read as follows: 3 4 Section 697.10 A. The Physician Manpower Training Commission 5 is authorized to enter into contractual arrangements with individual hospitals and clinical programs for the reimbursement of intern or 6 7 resident salary cost not to exceed the limits established by Section 697.2 of this title. Provided, that residency and internship 8 positions created prior to the spring semester 1975 shall be 10 eligible for participation in the cost-sharing program for internship and residency training as established by Sections 697.1 11 12 through 697.8 of this title, only if partial funding of said 13 positions will allow the creation of additional positions in whole 14 or in part at the participating hospital or clinical situation. 15 participating hospital or clinical situation shall document in a 16 manner specified by the Commission the extent to which funding of a 17 previously created and established position contributes directly to 18 the creation of additional positions at the participating hospital 19 or clinical situation. 20 The Commission is authorized, in cooperation with the В. 21 Oklahoma Health Care Authority, to enter into contractual 22 arrangements with the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine and

Req. No. 9663 Page 17

the Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine for

the reimbursement of intern and resident professional liability

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insurance cost which shall not be subject to the limits established
in Section 697.2 of this title. Any and all intern and resident
positions are eligible for reimbursement of intern and resident
professional liability insurance cost.

- C. There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund for the Physician Manpower Training Commission to be designated the "Intern and Residents Professional Liability Insurance Fund".

  The fund shall be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall consist of all monies received by the Physician Manpower Training Commission for reimbursement of intern and residency professional liability insurance costs. All monies accruing to the credit of the fund are hereby appropriated and may be budgeted and expended by the Physician Manpower Training

  Commission for such costs. Expenditures from the fund shall be made upon warrants issued by the State Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by law with the Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services for approval and payment.
  - SECTION 12. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 697.11, as amended by Section 618, Chapter 304, O.S.L. 2012 (70 O.S. Supp. 2015, Section 697.11), is amended to read as follows:
  - Section 697.11 A. In addition to internship and residency programs previously established and funded, it is the intent of the Legislature that the Physician Manpower Training Commission, in cooperation with the Oklahoma Health Care Authority, establish a

- Critical Need Internship and Residency Program. The purpose of the Program is to fund internship and residency programs across the state in areas of critical need. The determination of areas of critical need shall be made through a cooperative effort between the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine and the Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine. The findings shall be reported to the Commission by July 1, 2006, and every three (3) years thereafter.
  - B. The University of Oklahoma College of Medicine and the Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine shall annually provide to the Commission a report outlining the areas of physician shortages in each specialty area. The report shall be the basis for the cooperative funding of critical need physician specialties for the current fiscal year.

C. There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund for the Physician Manpower Training Commission to be designated the "Critical Need Internship and Residency Fund". The fund shall be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall consist of all monies received by the Physician Manpower Training Commission for funding internship and residency programs in areas of critical need. All monies accruing to the credit of the fund are hereby appropriated and may be budgeted and expended by the Physician Manpower Training Commission for such costs. Expenditures from the fund shall be made upon warrants issued by the State

Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by law with the
Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services for
approval and payment.

SECTION 13. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 697.17, as amended by Section 619, Chapter 304, O.S.L. 2012 (70 O.S. Supp. 2015, Section 697.17), is amended to read as follows:

Section 697.17 A. There is hereby established the Nursing Student Assistance Program which shall be administered by the Physician Manpower Training Commission. The purpose of the program shall be to encourage persons to enter nursing education programs and to practice in areas of this state in which there is an urgent need for nursing services or in institutions or agencies of this state which provide funds on a matching basis with the Physician Manpower Training Commission for the support of nursing students. The Nursing Student Assistance Program shall be administered by rules adopted by the Physician Manpower Training Commission.

- B. Only students who are residents of this state shall be eligible to participate in the Nursing Student Assistance Program.
- C. If a person receiving Nursing Student Assistance Program funds fails to fully comply with the provisions of the contract for said funds, the person shall refund to the Physician Manpower Training Commission all monies received by the person pursuant to the provisions of the contract plus interest at the rate of twelve percent (12%) from the date of disbursement of said funds and shall

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be liable for any other liquidated damages as specified in the

contract a one-time liquidated damages assessment of five percent

(5%) of the total amount disbursed to said recipient in lieu of

interest. If the obligation was partially fulfilled, the Commission

shall prorate the amount to be repaid.
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- D. There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund for the Physician Manpower Training Commission to be designated the "Nursing Student Assistance Fund". The fund shall be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall consist of all nonappropriated monies, including community match money of appropriated funds, grants, gifts, and repayment of scholarships received by the Physician Manpower Training Commission. All monies accruing to the credit of said fund are hereby appropriated and may be budgeted and expended by the Physician Manpower Training Commission for such scholarships as may be provided for pursuant to the Nursing Student Assistance Program. Expenditures from said fund shall be made upon warrants issued by the State Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by law with the Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services for approval and payment.
- SECTION 14. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 697.20, is amended to read as follows:
- Section 697.20 A. There is hereby created the "Osteopathic Internship and Residency Program" which shall be conducted and

- administered by the Physician Manpower Training Commission. The

  purpose of this program is to provide for the fair and necessary

  distribution of funds allocated to it by the Legislature to provide

  monies to the following programs under the Physician Manpower

  Training Program:
  - 1. The Doctor of Osteopathy Residency Program (OSU/COM);

- 2. The Osteopathic General Practice Residency Program (OSU/COM); and
  - 3. The Osteopathic Internship Program (OSU/COM).
- B. The Physician Manpower Training Commission is hereby authorized to distribute such monies to the funds specified in Sections 697.2 and 697.6 of this title necessary to fund the programs specified in this section.
- SECTION 15. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 697.21, as amended by Section 622, Chapter 304, O.S.L. 2012 (70 O.S. Supp. 2015, Section 697.21), is amended to read as follows:
  - Section 697.21 A. There is hereby established the Physician Assistant Scholarship Program. The purpose of the program is to encourage persons to enter physician assistant education programs and to practice in rural and medically underserved areas of this state. The Physician Assistant Scholarship Program shall be administered by the Physician Manpower Training Commission pursuant to rules promulgated by the Commission and shall be funded based on an annual estimate of need as determined by the Commission. Awards

made pursuant to this Program shall be subject to the availability of funds. The number of and amount of each award shall be determined by the Commission based on the availability of funds.

- B. Only students who are residents of this state and who have been admitted as a student in an accredited physician assistant program shall be eligible to participate in the Physician Assistant Scholarship Program.
- C. If a person receiving Physician Assistant Scholarship
  Program monies fails to fully comply with the provisions of the
  contract for the monies, the person shall refund to the Physician
  Manpower Training Commission all monies received by the person
  pursuant to the provisions of the contract plus interest at a rate
  that equals the prime interest rate plus one percent (1%) from the
  date of disbursement of the funds and shall be liable for any other
  liquidated damages as specified in the contract.
- D. There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund for the Physician Manpower Training Commission to be designated the "Physician Assistant Scholarship Fund". The fund shall be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall consist of all monies received by the Physician Manpower Training Commission for implementation of the Physician Assistant Scholarship Program. All monies accruing to the credit of the fund are hereby appropriated and may be budgeted and expended by the Physician Manpower Training Commission for such scholarships as may be

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    provided for pursuant to the Physician Assistant Scholarship
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              Expenditures from the fund shall be made upon warrants
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    issued by the State Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by
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    law with the Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise
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    Services for approval and payment.
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        SECTION 16. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
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    of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby
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    declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
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    be in full force from and after its passage and approval.
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