



State of Wisconsin
2021 - 2022 LEGISLATURE

LRB-5514/1
ARG:cdc&cjs

2021 ASSEMBLY BILL 869

January 18, 2022 - Introduced by Representatives DALLMAN, CABRAL-GUEVARA, EDMING, GUNDRUM, NOVAK, OLDENBURG and ZIMMERMAN, cosponsored by Senators STAFSHOLT and FELZKOWSKI. Referred to Committee on Colleges and Universities.

AUTHORS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

1 **AN ACT** *to create* 20.235 (1) (fr), 39.387 and 71.05 (6) (b) 58. of the statutes;
2 **relating to:** creating a rural pharmacy practice grant program administered
3 by the Higher Educational Aids Board, exempting from taxation amounts
4 received from such a grant program, granting rule-making authority, and
5 making an appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill creates a grant program administered by the Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB) for pharmacists who engage in the practice of pharmacy in medically underserved areas in this state.

The bill establishes a rural pharmacy practice grant program to encourage pharmacists to engage in the practice of pharmacy in medically underserved areas in this state. To be eligible for the program, a pharmacist must engage in the practice of pharmacy in a medically underserved area in this state and commit to do so for at least three years after graduation from a school of pharmacy. For purposes of the bill, a “medically underserved area” is an area designated as such by the secretary of the federal Department of Health and Human Services. Under the program, an eligible pharmacist may be provided up to \$45,000 per year in financial assistance for up to two years. However, HEAB may provide financial assistance to no more than 10 pharmacists per year. A student enrolled in a school of pharmacy may apply to the program prior to becoming a licensed pharmacist. Financial assistance to a pharmacist participating in the program is provided after the pharmacist’s year of pharmacy practice in a medically underserved area in this state.

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Under the bill, any amount of financial assistance that a pharmacist receives under the program is exempt from taxation.

Because this bill relates to an exemption from state or local taxes, it may be referred to the Joint Survey Committee on Tax Exemptions for a report to be printed as an appendix to the bill.

For further information see the state fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

1 **SECTION 1.** 20.005 (3) (schedule) of the statutes: at the appropriate place, insert
2 the following amounts for the purposes indicated:

		2021-22		2022-23
20.235 Higher educational aids board				
(1) STUDENT SUPPORT ACTIVITIES				
(fr) Rural pharmacy practice grant				
program	GPR	C	-0-	450,000

7 **SECTION 2.** 20.235 (1) (fr) of the statutes is created to read:
8 20.235 (1) (fr) *Rural pharmacy practice grant program.* As a continuing
9 appropriation, the amounts in the schedule for the rural pharmacy practice grant
10 program under s. 39.387.

11 **SECTION 3.** 39.387 of the statutes is created to read:
12 **39.387 Rural pharmacy practice grant program. (1) DEFINITIONS.** In this
13 section:

14 (a) “Grant program” means the rural pharmacy practice grant program under
15 this section.

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1 (b) “Medically underserved area” means a medically underserved area
2 designated by the federal secretary of health and human services as provided in 42
3 CFR 51c.102 (e).

4 (c) “Pharmacist” means a person licensed by the pharmacy examining board
5 under s. 450.03 or 450.05.

6 (d) “Practice of pharmacy” has the meaning given in s. 450.01 (16).

7 (e) “School of pharmacy” has the meaning given in s. 255.35 (1m) (g).

8 **(2) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.** There is established, to be administered by the
9 board, a rural pharmacy practice grant program to encourage pharmacists to engage
10 in the practice of pharmacy in medically underserved areas in this state by providing
11 grants of financial assistance to those pharmacists as provided in sub. (4).

12 **(3) ELIGIBILITY.** A pharmacist is eligible for financial assistance as provided
13 under sub. (4) if the pharmacist meets all of the following requirements:

14 (a) He or she engages in the practice of pharmacy in a medically underserved
15 area in this state.

16 (b) He or she commits to engage in the practice of pharmacy in a medically
17 underserved area in this state for at least 3 years after graduation from a school of
18 pharmacy.

19 (c) He or she does not appear on the statewide support lien docket under s.
20 49.854 (2) (b), unless the pharmacist provides to the board a payment agreement that
21 has been approved by the county child support agency under s. 59.53 (5) and that is
22 consistent with rules promulgated under s. 49.858 (2) (a).

23 **(4) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.** (a) 1. From the appropriation account under s.
24 20.235 (1) (fr), the board shall grant financial assistance to pharmacists who meet
25 the eligibility requirements specified in sub. (3), who apply for participation in the

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1 grant program as provided in par. (b), and who submit claims for that financial
2 assistance as provided in par. (c).

3 2. The board may grant financial assistance under the grant program to no
4 more than 10 pharmacists in a fiscal year. If more than 10 pharmacists apply for
5 participation in the grant program in a fiscal year, the board shall consider the order
6 in which those applications are received and the need for pharmacists in the
7 medically underserved area for which the application is made in selecting
8 participants in the grant program.

9 3. A pharmacist may not receive financial assistance under the grant program
10 in more than 2 fiscal years and may not receive more than \$45,000 in any fiscal year.

11 (b) A pharmacist or student enrolled in a school of pharmacy may apply for
12 participation in the grant program by submitting an application to the board in a
13 form prescribed by the board. The application shall include such information as the
14 board may require to establish that the pharmacist or student meets or will meet the
15 eligibility requirements specified in sub. (3) for participation in the grant program
16 and any other information the board may require by rule promulgated under sub. (5).

17 (c) After each year in which a pharmacist participating in the grant program
18 engages in the practice of pharmacy in a medically underserved area in this state,
19 the pharmacist may submit to the board a claim for financial assistance. The claim
20 shall include the signature of the pharmacist and of a representative of the pharmacy
21 in which the pharmacist is employed or otherwise affiliated certifying that during
22 the period for which financial assistance is claimed the pharmacist engaged in the
23 practice of pharmacy in a medically underserved area in this state and such other
24 information as the board may require by rule promulgated under sub. (5) to verify
25 the pharmacist's eligibility for financial assistance.

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1 (d) If the board determines that a pharmacist who submits a claim for financial
2 assistance under par. (c) is eligible to receive that assistance, the board shall provide
3 that assistance, subject to the amounts available in the appropriation account under
4 s. 20.235 (1) (fr).

5 **(5) RULES.** The board shall promulgate rules to implement and administer this
6 section, including rules specifying all of the following:

7 (a) The information a pharmacist or student enrolled in a school of pharmacy
8 must include in an application for participation in the grant program under sub. (4)
9 (b).

10 (b) The information a pharmacist must include in a claim for financial
11 assistance under sub. (4) (c).

12 **SECTION 4.** 71.05 (6) (b) 58. of the statutes is created to read:

13 71.05 **(6)** (b) 58. For taxable years beginning after December 31, 2020, any
14 amount received by a pharmacist, in the taxable year to which the subtraction
15 relates, from the rural pharmacy practice grant program under s. 39.387.

16 **SECTION 5. Initial applicability.**

17 (1) **RURAL PHARMACY PRACTICE GRANT PROGRAM.** This act first applies to an
18 individual who graduates from a school of pharmacy in 2021.

19 **(END)**