

As Introduced

**130th General Assembly
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S. B. No. 151

Senator Tavares

Cosponsors: Senators Kearney, Turner, Jones

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A B I L L

To enact sections 4783.01 to 4783.09 of the Revised 1
Code to require the Director of Health to 2
establish the Ohio Health Care Professional Loan 3
Repayment Program. 4

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

Section 1. That sections 4783.01, 4783.02, 4783.03, 4783.04, 5
4783.05, 4783.06, 4783.07, 4783.08, and 4783.09 of the Revised 6
Code be enacted to read as follows: 7

Sec. 4783.01. The director of health shall establish and 8
administer the Ohio health care professional loan repayment 9
program, which shall be modeled on the national health services 10
corps loan repayment program. To the extent funds are available, 11
the program shall provide grants to health care professionals to 12
assist in repayment of qualifying educational loans. 13

The program shall be in addition to and administered 14
separately from the physician loan repayment program established 15
under sections 3702.71 to 3702.81 of the Revised Code and the 16
dentist loan repayment program established under sections 3702.85 17
to 3702.95 of the Revised Code. 18

Sec. 4783.02. As used in sections 4783.01 to 4783.09 of the 19

<u>Revised Code:</u>	20
<u>(A) "Primary care specialty" means all of the following:</u>	21
<u>(1) In the case of a physician or physician assistant, family practice, obstetrics and gynecology, general internal medicine, geriatrics, pediatrics, and psychiatry;</u>	22 23 24
<u>(2) In the case of a certified nurse practitioner, adult practice, family practice, pediatrics, psychiatric-mental health, geriatrics, and women's health;</u>	25 26 27
<u>(3) In the case of a dentist, general dentistry and pediatric dentistry.</u>	28 29
<u>(B) "Qualifying educational loans" means outstanding government or commercial loans for undergraduate or graduate education that are obtained and used solely for tuition and other reasonable educational expenses and for reasonable living expenses.</u>	30 31 32 33 34
<u>Sec. 4783.03. The director of health may solicit and accept gifts and grants to be used for the Ohio health care professional loan repayment program. Any gifts or grants, application fees, amounts received due to failure to complete service obligations, and amounts appropriated by the general assembly shall be deposited in the state treasury to the credit of the health care professional loan repayment program fund, which is hereby created.</u>	35 36 37 38 39 40 41
<u>Sec. 4783.04. The director of health shall adopt such rules as the director considers appropriate for the administration of the Ohio health care professional loan repayment program.</u>	42 43 44
<u>The rules shall establish grants to be made to participants, service obligations required of participants, and monetary penalties for failure to complete service obligations. The rules may provide for varying grant amounts based on the length of</u>	45 46 47 48

service obligations and whether the service is to be full time or 49
part time. 50

The rules shall specify the information and supporting 51
documentation that must be provided by applicants for 52
participation in the program and may establish application fees. 53

All rules shall be adopted in accordance with Chapter 119. of 54
the Revised Code. 55

Sec. 4783.05. The director of health may designate as a 56
health service site for the purposes of the Ohio health care 57
professional loan repayment program any health care facility that 58
provides outpatient primary health services to persons residing in 59
urban or rural health shortage areas designated under section 60
3702.76 of the Revised Code. 61

Sec. 4783.06. The director of health shall accept and 62
consider an application for the Ohio health care professional loan 63
repayment program from any of the following health care 64
professionals who are authorized to practice in this state: 65

(A) A physician who practices a primary care specialty and 66
has one of the following qualifications: 67

(1) Certification in a primary care specialty from a 68
specialty board approved by the American board of medical 69
specialties or the American osteopathic association; 70

(2) Has completed, or will complete prior to commencing 71
service, a residency program approved by the accreditation council 72
for graduate medical education or the American osteopathic 73
association in a primary care specialty. 74

(B) A physician assistant who practices under the supervision 75
of a physician who practices a primary care specialty; 76

(C) A certified nurse practitioner who practices a primary 77

<u>care specialty;</u>	78
<u>(D) A certified nurse-midwife;</u>	79
<u>(E) A clinical nurse specialist who specializes in</u> <u>psychiatric or mental health services;</u>	80 81
<u>(F) A dentist who practices a primary care specialty;</u>	82
<u>(G) A dental hygienist;</u>	83
<u>(H) An independent marriage and family therapist;</u>	84
<u>(I) A professional clinical counselor;</u>	85
<u>(J) A licensed independent social worker;</u>	86
<u>(K) A psychologist who has passed the examination for</u> <u>professional practice of psychology.</u>	87 88
<u>Sec. 4783.07. To be eligible to participate in the Ohio</u>	89
<u>health care professional loan repayment program, a health care</u>	90
<u>professional must meet all of the following requirements:</u>	91
<u>(A) Be a citizen or national of the United States by birth or</u> <u>naturalization;</u>	92 93
<u>(B) Participate or be eligible to participate as a provider</u> <u>in one or more of the following: medicare, medicaid, and the</u> <u>children's health insurance program;</u>	94 95 96
<u>(C) Have accepted a position at a health service site</u> <u>designated by the director of health under section 4783.05 of the</u> <u>Revised Code;</u>	97 98 99
<u>(D) Not have any outstanding service obligation for a health</u> <u>professional or other service to the federal government or another</u> <u>entity that will not be completed before participation in the</u> <u>program begins;</u>	100 101 102 103
<u>(E) Not be in breach of a health professional service</u> <u>obligation to the federal government or a state or local</u>	104 105

government; 106

(F) Not be excluded, debarred, suspended, or disqualified by 107
a federal agency for misconduct. 108

Sec. 4783.08. Application for the Ohio health care 109
professional loan repayment program shall be made on a form 110
developed and provided by the Ohio department of health. An 111
application is complete only if it includes all information and 112
supporting documentation required by rules adopted under section 113
4783.04 of the Revised Code. The application must be accompanied 114
by any fee required by those rules. 115

Sec. 4783.09. The director of health shall consider each 116
qualified applicant for the Ohio health care professional loan 117
repayment program on the basis of the applicant's ability and 118
commitment to service to the medically underserved in health 119
shortage areas. The director shall select the program's 120
participants. The director shall determine the amount of each 121
grant and each participant's service obligation in accordance with 122
rules adopted under section 4783.04 of the Revised Code. 123

A health care professional who accepts a grant from the 124
program shall fulfill the service obligation specified by the 125
director. A health care professional who fails to fulfill a 126
service obligation without good cause shall repay the amount 127
accepted and pay the monetary penalty specified in rules adopted 128
under section 4783.04 of the Revised Code. The director shall 129
determine whether there is good cause for failure to complete a 130
service obligation. The director's decision is final. 131