

STATE OF NEW YORK

5279--A

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 7, 2017

Introduced by M. of A. AUBRY -- read once and referred to the Committee on Health -- recommitted to the Committee on Health in accordance with Assembly Rule 3, sec. 2 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to expanding the Doctors Across New York program to include dentists

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Paragraph (d) of subdivision 5-a of section 2807-m of the
2 public health law, as amended by section 6 of part H of chapter 57 of
3 the laws of 2017, is amended to read as follows:

4 (d) Physician and dentist loan repayment program. One million nine
5 hundred sixty thousand dollars for the period January first, two thou-
6 sand eight through December thirty-first, two thousand eight, one
7 million nine hundred sixty thousand dollars for the period January
8 first, two thousand nine through December thirty-first, two thousand
9 nine, one million nine hundred sixty thousand dollars for the period
10 January first, two thousand ten through December thirty-first, two thou-
11 sand ten, four hundred ninety thousand dollars for the period January
12 first, two thousand eleven through March thirty-first, two thousand
13 eleven, one million seven hundred thousand dollars each state fiscal
14 year for the period April first, two thousand eleven through March thir-
15 ty-first, two thousand fourteen, up to one million seven hundred five
16 thousand dollars each state fiscal year for the period April first, two
17 thousand fourteen through March thirty-first, two thousand seventeen,
18 and up to one million seven hundred five thousand dollars each state
19 fiscal year for the period April first, two thousand seventeen through
20 March thirty-first, two thousand twenty, shall be set aside and reserved
21 by the commissioner from the regional pools established pursuant to
22 subdivision two of this section and shall be available for purposes of
23 physician and dentist loan repayment in accordance with subdivision ten

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 of this section. Notwithstanding any contrary provision of this section,
2 sections one hundred twelve and one hundred sixty-three of the state
3 finance law, or any other contrary provision of law, such funding shall
4 be allocated regionally with one-third of available funds going to New
5 York city and two-thirds of available funds going to the rest of the
6 state and shall be distributed in a manner to be determined by the
7 commissioner without a competitive bid or request for proposal process
8 as follows:

9 (i) Funding shall first be awarded to repay loans of up to twenty-five
10 physicians who train in primary care or specialty tracks in teaching
11 general hospitals, and who enter and remain in primary care or specialty
12 practices in underserved communities, as determined by the commissioner.

13 (ii) After distributions in accordance with subparagraph (i) of this
14 paragraph, all remaining funds shall be awarded to repay loans of physi-
15 cians or dentists who enter and remain in primary care or specialty
16 practices in underserved communities, as determined by the commissioner,
17 including but not limited to physicians or dentists working in general
18 hospitals, or other health care facilities.

19 (iii) In no case shall less than fifty percent of the funds available
20 pursuant to this paragraph be distributed in accordance with subpara-
21 graphs (i) and (ii) of this paragraph to physicians or dentists identi-
22 fied by general hospitals.

23 (iv) In addition to the funds allocated under this paragraph, for the
24 period April first, two thousand fifteen through March thirty-first, two
25 thousand sixteen, two million dollars shall be available for the
26 purposes described in subdivision ten of this section;

27 (v) In addition to the funds allocated under this paragraph, for the
28 period April first, two thousand sixteen through March thirty-first, two
29 thousand seventeen, two million dollars shall be available for the
30 purposes described in subdivision ten of this section;

31 (vi) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, and subject
32 to the extension of the Health Care Reform Act of 1996, sufficient funds
33 shall be available for the purposes described in subdivision ten of this
34 section in amounts necessary to fund the remaining year commitments for
35 awards made pursuant to subparagraphs (iv) and (v) of this paragraph.

36 § 2. Paragraph (e) of subdivision 5-a of section 2807-m of the public
37 health law, as amended by section 6 of part H of chapter 57 of the laws
38 of 2017, is amended to read as follows:

39 (e) Physician and dentist practice support. Four million nine hundred
40 thousand dollars for the period January first, two thousand eight
41 through December thirty-first, two thousand eight, four million nine
42 hundred thousand dollars annually for the period January first, two
43 thousand nine through December thirty-first, two thousand ten, one
44 million two hundred twenty-five thousand dollars for the period January
45 first, two thousand eleven through March thirty-first, two thousand
46 eleven, four million three hundred thousand dollars each state fiscal
47 year for the period April first, two thousand eleven through March thir-
48 ty-first, two thousand fourteen, up to four million three hundred sixty
49 thousand dollars each state fiscal year for the period April first, two
50 thousand fourteen through March thirty-first, two thousand seventeen,
51 and up to four million three hundred sixty thousand dollars for each
52 state fiscal year for the period April first, two thousand seventeen
53 through March thirty-first, two thousand twenty, shall be set aside and
54 reserved by the commissioner from the regional pools established pursu-
55 ant to subdivision two of this section and shall be available for
56 purposes of physician and dentist practice support. Notwithstanding any

contrary provision of this section, sections one hundred twelve and one hundred sixty-three of the state finance law, or any other contrary provision of law, such funding shall be allocated regionally with one-third of available funds going to New York city and two-thirds of available funds going to the rest of the state and shall be distributed in a manner to be determined by the commissioner without a competitive bid or request for proposal process as follows:

(i) Preference in funding shall first be accorded to teaching general hospitals for up to twenty-five awards, to support costs incurred by physicians or dentists trained in primary or specialty tracks who thereafter establish or join practices in underserved communities, as determined by the commissioner.

(ii) After distributions in accordance with subparagraph (i) of this paragraph, all remaining funds shall be awarded to physicians or dentists to support the cost of establishing or joining practices in underserved communities, as determined by the commissioner, and to hospitals and other health care providers to recruit new physicians or dentists to provide services in underserved communities, as determined by the commissioner.

(iii) In no case shall less than fifty percent of the funds available pursuant to this paragraph be distributed to general hospitals in accordance with subparagraphs (i) and (ii) of this paragraph.

§ 3. Subdivision 10 of section 2807-m of the public health law, as added by section 75-e of part C of chapter 58 of the laws of 2008, paragraphs (a) and (c) as amended by section 13 of part B of chapter 58 of the laws of 2010, is amended to read as follows:

10. Physician and dentist loan repayment program. (a) Beginning January first, two thousand eight, the commissioner is authorized, within amounts available pursuant to subdivision five-a of this section, to make loan repayment awards to primary care physicians and dentists or other physician and dentist specialties determined by the commissioner to be in short supply, licensed to practice medicine or dentistry in New York state, who agree to practice for at least five years in an underserved area, as determined by the commissioner. Such physician or dentist shall be eligible for a loan repayment award of up to one hundred fifty thousand dollars over a five year period distributed as follows: fifteen percent of total loan debt not to exceed twenty thousand dollars for the first year; fifteen percent of total loan debt not to exceed twenty-five thousand dollars for the second year; twenty percent of total loan debt not to exceed thirty-five thousand dollars for the third year; and twenty-five percent of total loan debt not to exceed thirty-five thousand dollars per year for the fourth year; and any unpaid balance of the total loan debt not to exceed the maximum award amount for the fifth year of practice in such area.

(b) Loan repayment awards made to a physician or dentist pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subdivision shall not exceed the total qualifying outstanding debt of the physician or dentist from student loans to cover tuition and other related educational expenses, made by or guaranteed by the federal or state government, or made by a lending or educational institution approved under title IV of the federal higher education act. Loan repayment awards shall be used solely to repay such outstanding debt.

(c) In the event that a five-year commitment pursuant to the agreement referenced in paragraph (a) of this subdivision is not fulfilled, the recipient shall be responsible for repayment in amounts which shall be calculated in accordance with the formula set forth in subdivision (b)

1 of section two hundred fifty-four-o of title forty-two of the United
2 States Code, as amended.

3 (d) The commissioner is authorized to apply any funds available for
4 purposes of paragraph (a) of this subdivision for use as matching funds
5 for federal grants for the purpose of assisting states in operating loan
6 repayment programs pursuant to section three hundred thirty-eight I of
7 the public health service act.

8 (e) The commissioner may postpone, change or waive the service obli-
9 gation and repayment amounts set forth in paragraphs (a) and (c),
10 respectively of this subdivision in individual circumstances where there
11 is compelling need or hardship.

12 (f)(i) When a physician or dentist is not actually practicing in an
13 underserved area, he or she shall be deemed to be practicing in an
14 underserved area if he or she practices in a facility or physician's or
15 dentist's office that primarily serves an underserved population as
16 determined by the commissioner, without regard to whether the population
17 or the facility or physician's or dentist's office is located in an
18 underserved area.

19 (ii) In making criteria and determinations as to whether an area is an
20 underserved area or whether a facility or physician's or dentist's
21 office primarily serves an underserved population, the commissioner may
22 make separate criteria and determinations for different specialties.

23 § 4. This act shall take effect immediately.