STATE OF NEW YORK

4837

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 5, 2019

Introduced by M. of A. ENGLEBRIGHT, GOTTFRIED -- read once and referred to the Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to expanding the Doctors Across New York program to physicians who serve geriatric populations

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

Section 1. Subparagraphs (i) and (ii) of paragraph (d) of subdivision 5-a of section 2807-m of the public health law, as amended by section 6 of part H of chapter 57 of the laws of 2017, are amended to read as follows:

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

(ii) After distributions in accordance with subparagraph (i) of this paragraph, all remaining funds shall be awarded to repay loans of physicians who enter and remain in primary care or specialty practices in underserved communities **or serving geriatric populations**, as determined by the commissioner, including but not limited to physicians working in general hospitals, or other health care facilities.

§ 2. Subparagraphs (i) and (ii) of paragraph (e) of subdivision 5-a of section 2807-m of the public health law, as amended by section 6 of part H of chapter 57 of the laws of 2017, are amended to read 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 trained in primary or specialty tracks who thereafter establish or join practices in underserved communities **or in geriatric populations**, as determined by the commissioner.

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

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

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

(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 or other physician specialties determined by the commissioner to be in short supply, licensed to practice medicine in New York state, who agree to practice for at least five years in an underserved area **or to serve a geriatric population**, as determined by the commissioner. Such physician 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.

(f)(i) When a physician is not actually practicing in an underserved area **or in a geriatric population**, he or she shall be deemed to be practicing in an underserved area **or in a geriatric population** if he or she practices in a facility or physician's office that primarily serves an underserved population as determined by the commissioner, without regard to whether the population or the facility or physician's office is located in an underserved area **or in an area with a geriatric population**.

(ii) In making criteria and determinations as to whether an area is an underserved area **or in an area with a geriatric population** or whether a facility or physician's office primarily serves an underserved population, the commissioner may make separate criteria and determinations for different specialties.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately.