STATE OF NEW YORK

4695

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 22, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. PRETLOW -- read once and referred to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to funding of physician loan forgiveness programs

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

Section 1. Subdivision 9 of section 605 of the education law is amended by adding a new paragraph g to read as follows:

g. Use of excess funds from the regents health care professional opportunity scholarships. Any funds applied toward this program from unused allocations directed toward the regents health care professional opportunity scholarships, pursuant to subdivision ten of this section, shall be distributed in accordance with regents rules that shall give priority to physicians who are economically disadvantaged and/or members of an underrepresented minority group. Awardees shall provide service payback in an area designated as having a shortage of physicians, but not limited to, primary care services.

§ 2. The opening paragraph of subdivision 10 of section 605 of the education law, as added by chapter 31 of the laws of 1985, is amended to read as follows:

Regents health care professional opportunity scholarships shall be awarded annually to students who are beginning or engaged in an approved program in medicine or dentistry and who are economically disadvantaged and/or members of an underrepresented minority group, provided, however, that to the extent that regents health care professional opportunity scholarships are not awarded, such [~~scholarships shall be awarded as regents professional opportunity scholarships~~] **remaining funding shall be applied to the regents physician loan forgiveness program**. These scholarships shall be classified and allocated in accordance with regents rules.

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

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§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately, provided that the amendments to subdivisions 9 and 10 of section 605 of the education law, made by sections one and two of this act, shall not affect the termination of such program and scholarship respectively pursuant to section 17 of chapter 31 of the laws of 1985, as amended, and such program and scholarship shall terminate therewith.