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To: Universities and Colleges;  
Appropriations

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
HOUSE BILL NO. 729

1 AN ACT TO CREATE NEW SECTION 37-143-6, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF  
2 1972, TO ESTABLISH A MEDICAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TO  
3 PROVIDE UP TO 20 NEW RECIPIENTS EACH YEAR WITH A FULL SCHOLARSHIP  
4 TO OBTAIN A MEDICAL EDUCATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI  
5 SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT NO COST; TO PROVIDE THAT THE PROGRAM SHALL  
6 BE ADMINISTERED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OF  
7 HIGHER LEARNING; TO PROVIDE THAT THE PROGRAM SHALL BE FUNDED FROM  
8 MONIES APPROPRIATED FROM THE HEALTH CARE EXPENDABLE FUND; TO  
9 PROVIDE THAT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS MUST AGREE TO PRACTICE FAMILY  
10 MEDICINE FOR AT LEAST TEN YEARS IN AN AREA OF THE STATE THAT IS A  
11 CRITICAL NEEDS AREA FOR PRIMARY MEDICAL CARE; TO ESTABLISH A  
12 COMMITTEE THAT WILL ANNUALLY DETERMINE AND DESIGNATE THE CRITICAL  
13 NEEDS AREAS IN WHICH SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS MAY PRACTICE IN ORDER  
14 TO FULFILL THEIR CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATION; TO PROVIDE THAT IF A  
15 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT LEAVES MEDICAL SCHOOL OR HIS OR HER  
16 RESIDENCY BEFORE COMPLETION OR LEAVES PRACTICING FAMILY MEDICINE  
17 IN A CRITICAL NEEDS AREA BEFORE THE END OF TEN YEARS, THE FULL  
18 AMOUNT THAT THE RECIPIENT RECEIVED UNDER THE SCHOLARSHIP SHALL BE  
19 DUE AND PAYABLE WITHIN 90 DAYS, TOGETHER WITH INTEREST; AND FOR  
20 RELATED PURPOSES.

21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

22 SECTION 1. The following shall be codified as Section  
23 37-143-6, Mississippi Code of 1972:

24 37-143-6. (1) There is established a medical education  
25 scholarship program, which shall be administered by the Board of  
26 Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning. The program  
27 shall provide a certain number of eligible applicants each year  
28 with a full scholarship to obtain a medical education at the  
29 University of Mississippi School of Medicine at no cost to the  
30 recipient, if the recipient meets the conditions upon which the  
31 scholarship is granted.

32 (2) The program shall provide scholarships to up to twenty  
33 (20) new recipients each year, and the program shall be funded  
34 from monies appropriated from the Health Care Expendable Fund  
35 established under Section 43-13-407 and from any other funds

36 appropriated to or otherwise made available to the board of  
37 trustees for that purpose. The amounts that may be expended  
38 annually for scholarships under the program shall not exceed the  
39 following: Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) in fiscal  
40 year 2001; One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) in fiscal year  
41 2002; One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars in fiscal year  
42 2003; and Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) in fiscal year 2004  
43 and in any later fiscal year.

44 (3) The scholarship shall be in an amount that will pay the  
45 full cost of attendance, as defined by federal law and regulation,  
46 at the University of Mississippi School of Medicine for the entire  
47 time necessary for the recipient to complete the requirements for  
48 a medical degree. The actual amount of the scholarship shall be  
49 determined by the Office of Financial Aid of the University of  
50 Mississippi Medical Center but shall not exceed Twenty Five  
51 Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) per year for any recipient.

52 (4) Before being granted a scholarship, each applicant shall  
53 enter into a contract with the board of trustees, which shall be  
54 deemed a contract with the State of Mississippi, agreeing to the  
55 terms and conditions upon which the scholarship will be granted.  
56 In order to receive a scholarship under the program, the recipient  
57 must agree in the contract to practice family medicine for a  
58 period of not less than ten (10) years after completion of his or  
59 her residency in an area of the state that is a critical needs  
60 area for primary medical care at the time of the recipient's entry  
61 into medical practice. The determination and designation of the  
62 areas of the state that are critical needs areas for primary  
63 medical care shall be made by a committee to be known as the  
64 Medical Care Critical Needs Committee, which shall be composed of  
65 the following persons: the Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs of  
66 the University of Mississippi Medical Center, who shall be  
67 chairman of the committee; the Executive Director of the State  
68 Department of Health; the Executive Director of the Division of  
69 Medicaid; the President of the Mississippi State Medical  
70 Association or his designee; and the President of the Mississippi  
71 State Hospital Association or his designee. The committee shall  
72 meet at least once annually to determine and designate the areas

73 of the state that are critical needs areas for primary medical  
74 care in which scholarship recipients may practice family medicine  
75 in order to fulfill their contractual obligation.

76 (5) If a scholarship recipient leaves the University of  
77 Mississippi School of Medicine before graduation, or leaves his or  
78 her residency before completion, or fails to practice family  
79 medicine for a period of ten (10) years in a critical needs area  
80 for primary medical care as designated by the Medical Care  
81 Critical Needs Committee under subsection (4) of this section, the  
82 full amount that the recipient received under the scholarship  
83 shall be due and payable within ninety (90) days, together with  
84 interest. The amount of interest due shall be equal to the annual  
85 rate of return on the Health Care Trust Fund established under  
86 Section 43-13-405 for each year from the time the recipient  
87 received the scholarship money until the time the scholarship  
88 money is repaid. The board of trustees may bring suit against any  
89 scholarship recipient to recover the amount due to the state under  
90 this section for the recipient's failure to comply with the  
91 conditions upon which the scholarship was granted, as provided in  
92 this section and in the contract between the recipient and the  
93 board of trustees. The board of trustees is authorized to  
94 postpone or forgive the repayment of all or part of the amount  
95 that a recipient received under the scholarship and the interest  
96 that would otherwise be due under this subsection if the  
97 recipient's failure to comply with the conditions upon which the  
98 scholarship was granted was due to circumstances beyond the  
99 recipient's control that caused the recipient to be physically  
100 unable to comply with those conditions, such as suffering a severe  
101 illness, injury or other disabling condition.

102 (6) The board of trustees shall establish such rules and  
103 regulations as it deems necessary and proper to carry out the  
104 purposes and intent of this section.

105 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from

106 and after July 1, 2000.