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HOUSE BILL NO. 729
(As Sent to Governor)

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 (\$1,500,000.00) in
42 fiscal year 2003; and Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) in
43 fiscal year 2004 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; the President of the Mississippi
71 State Hospital Association or his designee; the President of the
72 Mississippi Academy of Family Physicians; and the Executive
73 Director of the Mississippi Primary Health Care Association. The
74 committee shall meet at least once annually to determine and
75 designate the areas of the state that are critical needs areas for
76 primary medical care in which scholarship recipients may practice
77 family medicine in order to fulfill their contractual obligation.

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

99 recipient's failure to comply with the conditions upon which the
100 scholarship was granted was due to circumstances beyond the
101 recipient's control that caused the recipient to be physically
102 unable to comply with those conditions, such as suffering a severe
103 illness, injury or other disabling condition.

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

107 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
108 and after July 1, 2000.