

By: Senator(s) Huggins

To: Universities and
Colleges; Appropriations

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 2916

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-143-6, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO PROVIDE THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OF
3 HIGHER LEARNING MAY USE FUNDS AVAILABLE UNDER THE MISSISSIPPI
4 FAMILY MEDICINE EDUCATION LOAN/SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR A
5 MISSISSIPPI STATE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM FOR PRIMARY CARE
6 PHYSICIANS AGREEING TO PRACTICE IN CRITICAL NEEDS AREAS OF THE
7 STATE, AND TO MATCH SUCH FUNDS WITH FEDERAL FUNDS FOR SUCH LOAN
8 REPAYMENT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

10 SECTION 1. Section 37-143-6, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
11 amended as follows:

12 37-143-6. (1) There is established a medical education
13 scholarship program and loan repayment program, which shall be
14 administered by the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of
15 Higher Learning. The program shall provide a certain number of
16 eligible applicants each year with a full scholarship to obtain a
17 medical education at the University of Mississippi School of
18 Medicine at no cost to the recipient, if the recipient meets the
19 conditions upon which the scholarship is granted.

20 (2) The program shall provide scholarships to up to twenty
21 (20) new recipients each year, and the program shall be funded
22 from monies appropriated from the Health Care Expendable Fund
23 established under Section 43-13-407 and from any other funds
24 appropriated to or otherwise made available to the board of
25 trustees for that purpose. The amounts that may be expended
26 annually for scholarships under the program shall not exceed the
27 following: Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) in fiscal
28 year 2001; One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) in fiscal year
29 2002; One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,500,000.00) in



30 fiscal year 2003; and Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) in
31 fiscal year 2004 and in any later fiscal year.

32 (3) The scholarship shall be in an amount that will pay the
33 full cost of attendance, as defined by federal law and regulation,
34 at the University of Mississippi School of Medicine for the entire
35 time necessary for the recipient to complete the requirements for
36 a medical degree. The actual amount of the scholarship shall be
37 determined by the Office of Financial Aid of the University of
38 Mississippi Medical Center but shall not exceed Twenty-five
39 Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) per year for any recipient.

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



63 designate the areas of the state that are critical needs areas for
64 primary medical care in which scholarship recipients may practice
65 family medicine in order to fulfill their contractual obligation.

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

92 (6) From and after July 1, 2001, the Board of Trustees of
93 State Institutions of Higher Learning is empowered and authorized
94 to use any funds available under the family medicine
95 scholarship/loan program established under this section for



96 repaying the state or federal medical education loans made to
97 licensed primary care physicians who agree to practice family
98 medicine for a period of not less than eight (8) years in an area
99 of the state that is a critical needs area for primary medical
100 care as designated by the committee created in subsection (4), to
101 be known as the Mississippi State Loan Repayment Program. The
102 Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning shall
103 use such funds to apply for and receive federal matching funds
104 from the National Health Service Corps to assist in the repayment
105 of qualifying educational loans for primary health care clinicians
106 who agree to practice in a public or nonprofit entity located in
107 Mississippi. In order to receive a state loan repayment under
108 this section, each applicant shall enter into a contract with the
109 board of trustees, which shall be deemed a contract with the State
110 of Mississippi, agreeing to the terms and conditions upon which
111 the loan repayment will be granted, which shall include all
112 conditions specified under subsection (4) for a recipient of a
113 scholarship loan.

114 (7) The Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher
115 Learning shall give priority placement of family medicine
116 residents according to the following:

117 (a) University of Mississippi Medical School graduate
118 or having successfully completed the full three-year Family
119 Medicine Residency training in the State of Mississippi.

120 (b) Mississippi born individual who has successfully
121 completed training in an out-of-state certified Family Medicine
122 Residency Program.

123 (c) Any non-Mississippi physician who attended and
124 received training at an out-of-state United States Medical School
125 and who is a Board Certified Family Practice Physician.

126 The Medical Care Critical Needs Committee shall meet at least
127 annually to determine and designate the areas of the state that
128 are critical needs areas for primary care in which loan repayment



129 recipients may practice family medicine and other primary care
130 health professional disciplines, in order to fulfill their
131 contractual obligation. The committee shall determine the
132 priority of additional primary health care clinicians who are
133 eligible to participate in the state loan repayment program using
134 any National Health Service Corps matching funds or other nonstate
135 appropriated funds.

136 (8) The board of trustees shall establish such rules and
137 regulations, based on recommendations submitted by the Medical
138 Care Critical Needs Committee, to carry out the purposes and
139 intent of this section.

140 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
141 and after July 1, 2001.

