

By: Frierson

To: Universities and
Colleges;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 729

1 AN ACT TO CREATE NEW SECTION 37-146-6, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
2 1972, TO ESTABLISH A MEDICAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TO
3 PROVIDE FIFTEEN NEW STUDENTS EACH YEAR WITH A FULL SCHOLARSHIP TO
4 OBTAIN A MEDICAL EDUCATION AND A FAMILY MEDICINE RESIDENCY AT THE
5 UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT NO COST; TO
6 PROVIDE THAT THE PROGRAM SHALL BE ADMINISTERED BY THE BOARD OF
7 TRUSTEES OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING; TO PROVIDE THAT
8 THE PROGRAM SHALL BE FUNDED FROM MONIES APPROPRIATED FROM THE
9 HEALTH CARE EXPENDABLE FUND; TO PROVIDE THAT SCHOLARSHIP
10 RECIPIENTS MUST AGREE TO PRACTICE FAMILY MEDICINE FOR AT LEAST TEN
11 YEARS IN AN AREA OF THE STATE THAT IS A PRIMARY MEDICAL CARE
12 SHORTAGE AREA AND A RURAL AREA NOT LOCATED WITHIN A CERTAIN
13 DISTANCE OF MAJOR URBAN AREAS; TO PROVIDE THAT IF A SCHOLARSHIP
14 RECIPIENT LEAVES MEDICAL SCHOOL OR THE FAMILY MEDICINE RESIDENCY
15 BEFORE COMPLETION OR LEAVES PRACTICING FAMILY MEDICINE IN A
16 MEDICAL CARE SHORTAGE AREA BEFORE THE END OF TEN YEARS, THE FULL
17 AMOUNT THAT THE RECIPIENT RECEIVED UNDER THE SCHOLARSHIP SHALL BE
18 DUE AND PAYABLE WITHIN 90 DAYS, TOGETHER WITH INTEREST; AND FOR
19 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

21 SECTION 1. The following shall be codified as Section
22 37-146-6, Mississippi Code of 1972:

23 37-146-6. (1) There is established a medical education
24 scholarship program, which shall be administered by the Board of
25 Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning. The program
26 shall provide a certain number of eligible applicants each year
27 with a full scholarship to obtain a medical education and a family
28 medicine residency at the University of Mississippi School of
29 Medicine at no cost to the recipient, if the recipient meets the
30 conditions upon which the scholarship is granted.

31 (2) The program shall provide scholarships to fifteen (15)
32 new students each year, and the program shall be funded from
33 monies appropriated from the Health Care Expendable Fund
34 established under Section 43-13-407 and from any other funds

35 appropriated to or otherwise made available to the board of
36 trustees for that purpose.

37 (3) The scholarship shall be in an amount that will pay the
38 full cost of the tuition and other expenses of recipient at the
39 University of Mississippi School of Medicine for the entire time
40 necessary to complete the requirements for a medical degree and a
41 residency in family medicine.

42 (4) Before being granted a scholarship, each applicant shall
43 enter into a contract with the board of trustees, which shall be
44 deemed a contract with the State of Mississippi, agreeing to the
45 terms and conditions upon which the scholarship will be granted.
46 In order to receive a scholarship under the program, the recipient
47 must agree in the contract to practice family medicine for a
48 period of not less than ten (10) years after completion of his or
49 her residency, in an area of the state that is, at the time of his
50 or her entry into medical practice:

51 (a) A Group 1 degree-of-shortage health professional
52 shortage area for primary medical care, as designated by the
53 United States Department of Health and Human Services;

54 (b) Classified as a rural area by the United States
55 Census Bureau; and

56 (c) Located more than fifty (50) miles from any
57 standard metropolitan statistical area, as defined and established
58 by the United States Census Bureau, and from any incorporated
59 municipality having a population of twenty-five thousand (25,000)
60 or more, according to the most recent federal decennial census.

61 (5) If a scholarship recipient leaves the University of
62 Mississippi School of Medicine before graduation, or leaves the
63 family medicine residency before completion, or fails to practice
64 family medicine in an area of the state described in subsection
65 (4) of this section for a period of ten (10) years, the full
66 amount that the recipient received under the scholarship shall be
67 due and payable within ninety (90) days, together with interest.
68 The amount of interest due shall be equal to the annual rate of
69 return on the Health Care Trust Fund established under Section
70 43-13-405 for each year from the time the recipient received the
71 scholarship money until the time the scholarship money is repaid.

72 The board of trustees may bring suit against any scholarship
73 recipient to recover the amount due to the state under this
74 section for the recipient's failure to comply with the conditions
75 upon which the scholarship was granted, as provided in this
76 section and in the contract between the recipient and the board of
77 trustees.

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

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