

By: Representative Scott

To: Public Health and Human Services

HOUSE BILL NO. 952

1 AN ACT TO CREATE NEW SECTION 37-106-85, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF  
 2 1972, TO CREATE THE AFRICAN AMERICAN RESIDENT PHYSICIAN  
 3 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF  
 4 MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CENTER FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING THE  
 5 NUMBER OF AFRICAN AMERICAN PHYSICIANS THAT PROVIDE SERVICES IN  
 6 UNDERSERVED CITIES OR COUNTIES; TO REQUIRE THE UNIVERSITY OF  
 7 MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CENTER TO ADOPT RULES AND REGULATIONS TO  
 8 ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM; TO PROVIDE FOR THE ELIGIBILITY OF THE  
 9 PROGRAM; TO PROVIDE THAT UPON ENTERING THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE, A  
 10 PARTICIPANT IN THE PROGRAM MUST SERVE IN A HEALTH PROFESSIONAL  
 11 SHORTAGE AREA, MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREA, OR RURAL AREA OTHERWISE  
 12 APPROVED FOR PRACTICE FOR AT LEAST FIVE YEARS; TO REQUIRE THE  
 13 PHYSICIAN TO REPAY IF THEY DO NOT FULFILL SUCH OBLIGATION; AND FOR  
 14 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

16 **SECTION 1.** The following shall be codified as Section  
 17 37-106-85, Mississippi Code of 1972:

18 37-106-85. (1) There is created the African American  
 19 Resident Physician Scholarship program to be administered by the  
 20 University of Mississippi Medical Center for the purpose of  
 21 increasing the number of African American physicians that provide  
 22 services in underserved cities or counties.

23 (2) The University of Mississippi Medical Center shall adopt  
 24 rules and regulations to administer the scholarship program.



25 (3) Upon entering the practice of medicine, a participant in  
26 the program must serve in a health professional shortage area  
27 (HPSA), medically underserved area (MUA), or rural area otherwise  
28 approved for practice for at least five (5) years. A participant  
29 who completes this period of service shall be considered to have  
30 fulfilled all financial obligations of repayment under the  
31 program.

32 (4) A participant who completes residency outside the State  
33 of Mississippi who fails to enter the practice of medicine as  
34 required under this section shall be deemed in breach of contract  
35 and shall be liable for the immediate repayment of all financial  
36 assistance provided to the participant through the African  
37 American Resident Physician Scholarship Program, including  
38 assistance provided during undergraduate school, as well as in  
39 medical or osteopathic school, along with other penalties that may  
40 be prescribed in policy by the board. Any participant who fails  
41 to complete the period of practice for which he or she is  
42 obligated to provide services in a health professional shortage  
43 area (HPSA) or a medically underserved area (MUA) in exchange for  
44 financial assistance received through the African American  
45 Resident Physician Scholarship Program shall be liable for the  
46 repayment of all financial assistance provided to the participant  
47 through the program.

48 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
49 and after July 1, 2024.

