

SENATE BILL No. 291

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 21-13-6.

Synopsis: Primary care physician loan forgiveness program. Provides that a primary care physician who is eligible for student loan forgiveness under the primary care physician loan forgiveness program may have student loans forgiven up to an amount of \$25,000 each year the primary care physician's practice provides service primarily in a rural area.

Effective: July 1, 2012.

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January 5, 2012, read first time and referred to Committee on Health and Provider Services.

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Second Regular Session 117th General Assembly (2012)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2011 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

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SENATE BILL No. 291



A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning education.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 21-13-6-1.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
2 AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
3 1, 2012]: **Sec. 1.5. As used in this chapter, "rural area" has the**
4 **meaning set forth in IC 8-1-2-87.**

5 SECTION 2. IC 21-13-6-5, AS ADDED BY P.L.170-2009,
6 SECTION 4, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
7 JULY 1, 2012]: Sec. 5. (a) The money in the fund must be used to
8 provide annual student loan forgiveness payments to qualified primary
9 care physicians who are residents of Indiana and practice medicine in
10 Indiana.

11 (b) Subject to section 8 of this chapter, a student loan forgiveness
12 payment awarded in a particular year under this section is:

13 **(1) for a primary care physician who primarily serves a rural**
14 **area, an amount equal to the lesser of:**

15 **(A) the balance of the physician's total amount of student**
16 **loans; or**

17 **(B) twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000); or**



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(2) for a primary care physician that does not qualify for the amount described in subdivision (1), an amount equal to the lesser of: the following amounts:

- ~~(1) The (A) the~~ balance of the physician's total amount of student loans; **or**
- ~~(2) Five (B) five~~ thousand dollars (\$5,000).

(c) A primary care physician is eligible for a student loan forgiveness payment under this section each year that the individual meets the qualifications under section 6 of this chapter.

SECTION 3. IC 21-13-6-6, AS ADDED BY P.L.170-2009, SECTION 4, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2012]: Sec. 6. **(a)** To qualify for a student loan forgiveness payment from the fund, an individual must:

- (1) be a resident of Indiana;
- (2) be licensed as a physician under IC 25-22.5;
- (3) except as provided in subsection (b),** practice as a primary care physician;
- (4) conduct the majority of the individual's medical practice in Indiana;
- (5) have an outstanding student loan balance at the beginning of the calendar year; and
- (6) be approved by the commission.

(b) In order for a primary care physician to qualify for the loan forgiveness payment amount described in section 5(b)(1) of this chapter, the commission must determine that the primary care physician's practice primarily serves a rural area in Indiana.

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