

1 HB160  
2 180730-2  
3 By Representatives McMillan, McClammy, Scott, Lee, Davis,  
4 Shiver, Polizos, Baker, Boothe, Chesteen, Jackson, Standridge,  
5 Beech, Morrow, McCampbell and Tuggle  
6 RFD: Ways and Means Education  
7 First Read: 09-FEB-17

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8 SYNOPSIS: This bill would establish the Alabama  
9 Physician Manpower Initiative.

10 This bill would provide scholarships for  
11 certain Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine  
12 medical students who contract with the Alabama  
13 Medical Education Consortium to practice for five  
14 years after the completion of their residency in  
15 rural areas of the state with the greatest need for  
16 physicians with funds allocated through the State  
17 Department of Public Health.

18 This bill would also authorize the  
19 consortium to contract with and award scholarships  
20 to medical students enrolled in and attending other  
21 Alabama colleges of medicine whose main campus is  
22 physically located in the state.

23  
24 A BILL  
25 TO BE ENTITLED  
26 AN ACT  
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1           To establish the Alabama Physician Manpower  
2 Initiative; to phase in the provision of 100 scholarships per  
3 year for certain Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine  
4 medical students who commit to practice medicine in rural  
5 areas of the state with the greatest need for physicians; to  
6 provide that the contracts be entered into between the student  
7 and the Alabama Medical Education Consortium; to provide for  
8 the duties and responsibilities of the consortium in the  
9 recruiting and educating of medical students and the placing  
10 of physicians into the workforce; to provide for funding  
11 through the State Department of Public Health; and to  
12 authorize the consortium to award scholarships to medical  
13 students enrolled in and attending any Alabama college of  
14 medicine whose main campus is physically located in the state.

15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

16           Section 1. For the purposes of this act, the  
17 following terms shall have the following meanings:

18           (1) COLLEGE. The Alabama College of Osteopathic  
19 Medicine.

20           (2) CONSORTIUM. The Alabama Medical Education  
21 Consortium, a 501(c)(3) corporation, that facilitates and  
22 administers the initiative.

23           (3) FAMILY MEDICINE. The medical specialty which  
24 provides continuing and comprehensive health care for the  
25 individual and family.

26           (4) INITIATIVE. The Alabama Physician Manpower  
27 Initiative.

1           (5) MATCH. The process by which a student is  
2 selected for residency training.

3           (6) PHYSICIAN. An individual who holds an unlimited  
4 license to practice medicine in this state.

5           (7) PRIMARY CARE. The practice of family medicine.

6           (8) RESIDENT and RESIDENCY. Training or the title of  
7 the graduate medical education program of three or more years  
8 offered in a teaching hospital that is accredited by the  
9 American Council on Graduate Medical Education.

10          (9) SERVICE CONTRACT. A document signed by and  
11 agreed to by the student and the consortium setting forth  
12 terms of receiving tuition scholarship funds and the service  
13 requirement.

14          (10) STUDENT. A medical student enrolled in and  
15 attending the college.

16          Section 2. (a) The consortium shall administer a  
17 student scholarship program to increase the availability of  
18 family medicine practitioners by providing incentives to  
19 medical students who agree to provide family medicine in  
20 Alabama for five years immediately after becoming a licensed  
21 physician.

22          (b) A scholarship awarded under this act shall be  
23 used to provide tuition funding support to a medical student  
24 enrolled at the college and may not be used to reduce any  
25 other financial aid, grant, or scholarship the student may  
26 otherwise receive.

1           Section 3. (a) Before the 2018 fall semester, and  
2 before each fall semester thereafter, the consortium and the  
3 chief academic officer of the college shall jointly select up  
4 to 25 incoming first-year students to participate in the  
5 initiative. The maximum number of students participating in  
6 the initiative at any one time may not exceed 100. Each  
7 student selected shall be enrolled full time at the college in  
8 a program that is designed to prepare the student to become a  
9 physician to enter a residency in a family medicine  
10 discipline. If a student, upon initial selection, declines to  
11 participate in the initiative, the consortium may select a  
12 qualified alternate.

13           (b) After selection, to be eligible to receive  
14 scholarship funds, the student shall execute a contract with  
15 the consortium committing to complete his or her graduate work  
16 in an Alabama graduate medical education program and to  
17 practice for five years as a physician in Alabama, under the  
18 terms of the contract, in a rural area of the state designated  
19 by the placement component used by the consortium based on  
20 current state and national data specifically appropriate for  
21 Alabama as a primary care shortage area. A student selected to  
22 participate in the initiative shall complete all educational  
23 requirements of the college in four years and may not qualify  
24 for a scholarship for more than four school years.

25           Section 4. (a) The consortium shall contract with  
26 the college to provide scholarship funds for students  
27 participating in the initiative. The amount of the scholarship

1 funds awarded each school year shall be determined by the  
2 consortium based on the annual tuition charged by the college.

3 (b) The consortium shall provide the necessary  
4 management, staff, and accountability in implementing the  
5 initiative.

6 Section 5. (a) During his or her fourth year at the  
7 college, a student shall enter the residency match program.  
8 Pursuant to the terms of the contract, the student shall agree  
9 to match in an Alabama program, if possible, to fulfill his or  
10 her three years of residency in the state.

11 (b) Upon completion of his or her residency, and  
12 pursuant to the terms of the contract, the former student  
13 shall practice family medicine in a primary care shortage area  
14 in the state for five years. The actual location of service  
15 shall be determined by the consortium based on the needs of  
16 the state at the time.

17 Section 6. A student or former student who fails to  
18 comply with the terms and conditions of the contract shall  
19 return all scholarship funds received pursuant to the  
20 contract, plus interest computed as specified in the contract,  
21 to the consortium.

22 Section 7. The student scholarship program  
23 administered by the consortium shall be funded by direct  
24 allocation from the State Department of Public Health. To  
25 receive funding for scholarships awarded pursuant to this act,  
26 the consortium shall make an annual written request to the  
27 State Department of Public Health specifying the amount

1 necessary for the following year. The State Department of  
2 Public Health shall review the request and determine the  
3 amount of the request that should be approved for  
4 distribution.

5 Section 8. Any provisions of this act to the  
6 contrary notwithstanding, the consortium may contract with and  
7 award scholarships pursuant to this act to medical students  
8 who are enrolled in and attending any Alabama college of  
9 medicine whose main campus is physically located in the state.  
10 The college of medicine shall agree to contract with the  
11 consortium and may not receive any additional state funds for  
12 any medical student who is awarded scholarship funds.

13 Section 9. This act shall become effective on the  
14 first day of the third month following its passage and  
15 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.