

1 SB335
2 184333-1
3 By Senators Stutts, Smith, Albritton, Beasley, Shelnut, Dial,
4 McClendon, Holley, Marsh, Pittman and Reed
5 RFD: Finance and Taxation Education
6 First Read: 16-MAR-17

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

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

19
20 A BILL
21 TO BE ENTITLED
22 AN ACT
23

24 To establish the Alabama Physician Initiative; to
25 phase in the provision of 100 scholarships per year beginning
26 with 25 scholarships in academic year 2017-2018 and phase down
27 beginning 2021 for certain medical school students enrolled in

1 and attending a college located in Alabama and who commit to
2 practice family medicine in rural areas of the state with the
3 greatest need for physicians; to provide that service
4 contracts be entered into between the student and the Alabama
5 Medical Education Consortium and between the consortium and
6 each of the colleges of medicine; to provide for the duties
7 and responsibilities of the consortium in the recruiting and
8 educating of medical students and the placing of physicians
9 into the workforce; and to provide for funding through the
10 State Department of Public Health.

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

14 (1) COLLEGE. A college of medicine located in the
15 State of Alabama.

16 (2) CONSORTIUM. The Alabama Medical Education
17 Consortium, a 501(c)(3) corporation, the entity that
18 facilitates and administers the initiative and is accountable
19 to the Legislature.

20 (3) FAMILY MEDICINE. The medical specialty which
21 provides continuing and comprehensive health care for the
22 individual and family.

23 (4) INITIATIVE. The Alabama Physician Initiative.

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

26 (6) PHYSICIAN. An individual who holds an
27 unrestricted license to practice medicine in this state.

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

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

6 (9) SERVICE CONTRACT. A document signed by and
7 agreed to by the student and the consortium setting forth
8 terms of receiving tuition scholarship funds and the service
9 requirement.

10 (10) STUDENT. A medical student enrolled in and
11 attending a college of medicine located in Alabama.

12 Section 2. (a) The Alabama Medical Education
13 Consortium shall administer a student scholarship program to
14 increase the availability of family medicine practitioners by
15 providing incentives to medical students who agree to provide
16 family medicine in Alabama for five years immediately after
17 completion of residency.

18 (b) A scholarship awarded under this act shall be
19 used to provide tuition funding support to a medical student
20 enrolled at a college of medicine and may not be used to
21 reduce any other financial aid, grant, or scholarship the
22 student may otherwise receive.

23 Section 3. (a) Before the 2017 fall semester, and
24 before each fall semester thereafter, the consortium and the
25 chief academic officer of each participating college shall
26 jointly select up to 25 incoming first year students to
27 participate in the initiative. The maximum number of students

1 participating in the initiative at any one time may not exceed
2 100. Each student selected shall be enrolled full time at a
3 college in a program that is designed to prepare the student
4 to become a physician to enter a residency in a family
5 medicine discipline. If a student, upon initial selection,
6 declines to participate in the initiative, the consortium may
7 select a qualified alternate.

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

21 Section 4. (a) The consortium shall contract with
22 the college to provide scholarship funds for students
23 participating in the initiative. The amount of the scholarship
24 funds awarded each school year shall be determined by the
25 consortium based on the annual tuition charged by the college
26 and appropriated by the Legislature.

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

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

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

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

21 Section 7. The student scholarship program
22 administered by the consortium shall be funded by legislative
23 appropriation through the State Department of Public Health.
24 To receive funding for scholarships awarded pursuant to this
25 act, the consortium shall make an annual report and funding
26 request to the Legislature.

1 Section 8. This act shall become effective on the
2 first day of the third month following its passage and
3 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.