## SECOND REGULAR SESSION HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

## **HOUSE BILL NO. 1925**

## 102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

3874H.02C

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DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

## AN ACT

To amend chapter 191, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to a rural health care professional grant program.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 191, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be 2 known as section 191.620, to read as follows:

191.620. 1. For purposes of this section, the following terms mean:

- 2 (1) "Advanced practice registered nurse" or "APRN", the same meaning given 3 to the term in section 335.016;
  - (2) "Chiropractor", a chiropractor licensed under chapter 331;
- 5 (3) "Dentist", a dentist licensed and registered under chapter 332;
- 6 (4) "Department", the department of health and senior services;
- 7 (5) "Health care professional", a primary care physician, psychiatrist, registered nurse, dentist, or chiropractor;
- 9 (6) "Primary care physician", a physician licensed and registered under chapter 10 334 engaged in general or family practice;
- 11 (7) "Program", the rural health care professional grant program established in subsection 2 of this section;
  - (8) "Psychiatrist", the same meaning given to the term in section 632.005;
- 14 (9) "Registered nurse", the same meaning given to the term in section 335.016;
- 15 (10) "Rural county", a county in Missouri with fewer than thirty-five thousand 16 inhabitants.
- 2. Subject to appropriation, the department shall establish a rural health care professional grant program to provide incentives to health care professionals to practice

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

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and reside in rural counties. The department shall award grants to eligible health care professionals on the basis of available funds in the following order of descending 20 21 priority:

- (1) Primary care physicians;
- 23 (2) Dentists;

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- (3) Registered nurses and advanced practice registered nurses;
- 25 (4) Psychiatrists; and
- 26 (5) Chiropractors.
- 3. Any health care professional who begins practice as a health care professional 28 in a rural county after August 28, 2024, who resides in such rural county, and who is willing to enter into a grant agreement under the terms outlined in subsection 4 of this 30 section shall be eligible to receive a grant under this section. The department shall post on its website the eligibility criteria outlined in this section, the contents of the grant application, and the procedures and timelines by which health care professionals may apply for grants.
  - 4. The department shall enter into a grant agreement with each health care professional to whom it awards a grant under this section. The grant agreement shall be in writing and shall contain:
  - (1) A provision that the health care professional agrees to reside and practice as a health care professional in a rural county for a continuous five-year period and the state agrees to pay the health care professional twenty thousand dollars each year of such five-year period, with such period of residence and practice to begin immediately;
  - (2) A provision that any obligations arising out of the agreement entered into under subdivision (1) of this subsection are contingent upon funds being appropriated for grant payments;
  - (3) A provision identifying the rural county where the health care professional will practice and reside;
  - (4) A statement of the damages to which the state is entitled for the health care professional's breach of the grant agreement; and
  - (5) Such other statements of the rights and liabilities of the department and of the health care professional not inconsistent with this section.
  - 5. If an individual breaches the written grant agreement by failing either to begin the five-year period of residence and practice or to complete the five-year period of residence and practice, the state shall be entitled to recover from the individual an amount equal to the sum of:
- 54 (1) The total of the amounts paid by the state to the individual under the grant 55 agreement;

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- 56 (2) An amount equal to any damages incurred by the department as a result of the breach; and
  - (3) Any legal fees or associated costs incurred by the department or the state in the collection of damages.
  - 6. This section shall not be construed to require the department to enter into grant agreements with health care professionals who are eligible for grants under this section if state funds are not available for such purpose.
  - 7. The total amount of all grants awarded under this section shall not exceed one million dollars.
  - 8. (1) There is hereby created in the state treasury the "Rural Health Care Professional Grant Program Fund", which shall consist of moneys appropriated to it by the general assembly. The state treasurer shall be custodian of the fund. In accordance with sections 30.170 and 30.180, the state treasurer may approve disbursements. The fund shall be a dedicated fund and, upon appropriation, moneys in the fund shall be used solely for awarding grants and administering the program under this section.
  - (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080 to the contrary, any moneys remaining in the fund at the end of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the general revenue fund.
  - (3) The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund in the same manner as other funds are invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be credited to the fund.
  - 9. The department may promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2024, shall be invalid and void.
    - 10. The provisions of this section shall expire August 28, 2034.