

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 44

Session of
2005

INTRODUCED BY THOMAS, YOUNGBLOOD, MELIO, TIGUE, JAMES,
W. KELLER, BEBKO-JONES, BELARDI, BELFANTI, CORRIGAN, HARHAI,
LaGROTTA, LEDERER, SOLOBAY, STABACK, GEORGE, DALEY, PRESTON,
WASHINGTON AND CALTAGIRONE, JANUARY 25, 2005

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
JANUARY 25, 2005

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of December 2, 1992 (P.L.741, No.113), entitled
2 "An act providing a comprehensive plan for health care for
3 uninsured children; providing for medical education
4 assistance; making appropriations; and making repeals,"
5 further providing for loan forgiveness for primary health
6 care practitioners.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. Section 1303(d) and (e) of the act of December 2,
10 1992 (P.L.741, No.113), known as the Children's Health Care Act,
11 are amended to read:

12 Section 1303. Loan forgiveness for primary health care
13 practitioners.

14 * * *

15 (d) Eligibility.--Consideration for loan repayment
16 assistance shall be as follows:

17 (1) The applicant must be one of the following:

18 (i) An individual who:

1 (A) has a medical degree from an accredited
2 medical school or osteopathic medical college;

3 (B) has completed an approved graduate training
4 program in primary care medicine;

5 (C) is licensed to practice medicine in this
6 Commonwealth; and

7 (D) is board eligible in a primary care
8 specialty.

9 (ii) An individual who is licensed to practice
10 general dentistry in this Commonwealth.

11 (iii) An individual who holds a nursing degree from
12 an accredited nursing program and has completed a
13 training program for nurse practitioners or nurse
14 midwives.

15 (iv) An individual who has graduated from an
16 accredited program for physician assistants.

17 (v) An individual who is licensed to practice
18 podiatry in this Commonwealth.

19 (vi) An individual who is licensed to practice
20 optometry in this Commonwealth.

21 (2) An applicant who is qualified under paragraph (1)
22 must agree to serve in a designated medically underserved
23 area of this Commonwealth as a primary health care
24 practitioner for not less than three years.

25 (e) Benefits.--

26 (1) A physician [or], dentist or podiatrist who is
27 eligible under subsection (d) shall be eligible to receive up
28 to \$64,000 in loan exonerations based on the following
29 schedule:

30 (i) Year one, 15%.

- 1 (ii) Year two, 20%.
- 2 (iii) Year three, 30%.
- 3 (iv) Year four, 35%.

4 (2) A nurse practitioner, physician assistant or nurse
5 midwife who is eligible under subsection (d) shall be
6 eligible to receive up to \$40,000 in loan exonerations based
7 on the following repayment schedule:

- 8 (i) Year one, 15%.
- 9 (ii) Year two, 20%.
- 10 (iii) Year three, 30%.
- 11 (iv) Year four, 35%.

12 * * *

13 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.