

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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**HOUSE BILL**  
**No. 2813** Session of  
1986

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INTRODUCED BY IRVIS, MANDERINO, LINTON AND KUKOVICH, OCTOBER 1,  
1986

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, OCTOBER 1, 1986

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AN ACT

1 Establishing a program of State aid for certain medical students  
2 in return for commitments to provide needed medical services;  
3 establishing the Consortium Board and giving it powers and  
4 duties; conferring powers and duties on the Pennsylvania  
5 Higher Education Assistance Agency; and making an  
6 appropriation.

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

9 Section 1. Short title.

10 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Medical  
11 Education Opportunity Act.

12 Section 2. Declaration of policy.

13 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

14 (1) There is a lack of proper medical services for  
15 racial minorities, for the poor and for rural areas.

16 (2) A program of State aid for medical students in  
17 return for a commitment to provide medical services to groups  
18 specified in paragraph (1) would benefit this Commonwealth  
19 and participating students.

1 Section 3. Definitions.

2 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall  
3 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
4 context clearly indicates otherwise:

5 "Agency." The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance  
6 Agency.

7 "Board." The Consortium Board established under section 4.

8 "Disadvantaged individuals." Members of racial minorities,  
9 individuals who are financially needy or individuals who are  
10 domiciled in rural areas which are medically underserved.

11 "Medical school." A publicly or privately operated school of  
12 medicine which offers instruction leading toward a medical  
13 doctor (M.D.) degree; which requires that, in order to obtain  
14 that degree, the student satisfactorily complete appropriate  
15 courses of class, laboratory or research study in residence  
16 under a faculty whose members hold appropriate academic degrees;  
17 and which is accredited by the American Association of Medical  
18 Colleges.

19 "Member of a racial minority." An individual who is a  
20 citizen of the United States and who is one of the following:

21 (1) Black--having origins in a black racial group in  
22 Africa.

23 (2) Hispanic--of Spanish or Portuguese culture with  
24 origins in Mexico, South or Central America or the Caribbean  
25 Islands. Race is not a factor under this paragraph.

26 (3) American Indian or Alaskan Native--having origins in  
27 the original peoples of North America.

28 "Program." The Medical Education Opportunity Program  
29 established under section 6.

30 "Recipient." An individual who receives an award under

1 section 7.

2 Section 4. Board.

3 (a) Establishment.--The Consortium Board is established. The  
4 board shall consist of the following:

5 (1) One representative from each medical school in this  
6 Commonwealth which participates in the program. The method of  
7 selection shall be determined by each medical school.

8 (2) Additional appointees of the board. Appointments  
9 made under this paragraph shall assure that administrators  
10 and faculty members who are disadvantaged individuals are  
11 members of the board.

12 (b) Powers and duties.--The board has the following powers  
13 and duties:

14 (1) Make appointments under subsection (a)(2).

15 (2) Perform studies on the fulfillment of the purpose of  
16 this act.

17 (3) Advise and assist the agency in the administration  
18 of this act and the program.

19 Section 5. Agency.

20 The agency has the following powers and duties:

21 (1) Administer this act.

22 (2) Administer the program.

23 (3) Promulgate regulations for the administration of  
24 this act and the program.

25 Section 6. Program.

26 (a) Establishment.--The Medical Education Opportunity  
27 Program of financial assistance is established to implement the  
28 policy of encouraging disadvantaged individuals to enroll in and  
29 complete professional programs at the M.D. degree level. The  
30 agency shall, with the advice of the board, make awards from

1 money appropriated for this purpose.

2 (b) Participation.--A medical school located in this  
3 Commonwealth may participate in the program. The decision to  
4 participate shall be communicated to the agency. The agency  
5 shall maintain and make available for public inspection a list  
6 of participating medical schools.

7 Section 7. Awards.

8 (a) Eligibility.--The agency shall determine eligibility for  
9 awards under the program. To be eligible for an award, an  
10 individual must fulfill the following requirements:

11 (1) Be a citizen of the United States.

12 (2) Be a matriculating student in a medical school that  
13 is participating in the program under section 6(b).

14 (3) Be a disadvantaged individual.

15 (4) Have earned a baccalaureate degree at an institution  
16 of higher education.

17 (5) Have above-average academic ability to pursue an  
18 M.D. degree.

19 (6) Be an individual who will be encouraged to pursue an  
20 M.D. degree.

21 (7) Meet other qualifications established by regulations  
22 of the agency.

23 (b) Application.--The agency, with the advice of the board,  
24 shall promulgate regulations establishing the application for an  
25 award and determining the time schedule for the application  
26 process.

27 (c) Terms.--An award consists of a contract between the  
28 recipient and the agency. The contract shall be in writing and  
29 shall contain the following provisions:

30 (1) The agency is obligated to pay the tuition of the

1 recipient for a school year and a stipend of \$600 per month  
2 for each of the 12 consecutive months beginning with the  
3 first month of the school year. Payments under this paragraph  
4 are renewable for up to an additional three years if the  
5 recipient is making satisfactory progress toward completing  
6 the M.D. degree.

7 (2) The recipient is obligated to provide service in  
8 full-time clinical practice of medicine for the period equal  
9 to the number of years that the recipient received payment  
10 under paragraph (1). The obligated service shall be in the  
11 areas of internal medicine, pediatrics or family practice;  
12 psychiatry; or obstetrics and gynecology. The obligated  
13 service shall be in a health manpower-shortage area, that is,  
14 an underserved area of this Commonwealth. The obligated  
15 service requirement may be deferred at the request of the  
16 recipient until the end of the period of time required for  
17 the recipient to complete an internship, residency or other  
18 advanced clinical training. A period of internship, residency  
19 or other advanced clinical training may not be counted toward  
20 satisfying the period of obligated service.

21 (3) If the obligation under paragraph (2) is not met,  
22 the recipient shall repay the money received under paragraph  
23 (1) and interest at the annual rate of 12%.

#### 24 Section 8. Appropriation.

25 The sum of \$ , or as much thereof as may be necessary,  
26 is hereby appropriated to the Pennsylvania Higher Education  
27 Assistance Agency for the fiscal year July 1, 1986, to June 30,  
28 1987, to carry out the provisions of this act.

#### 29 Section 9. Effective date.

30 This act shall take effect in 60 days.