

**First Regular Session
Seventy-second General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 19-0672.01 Richard Sweetman x4333

HOUSE BILL 19-1241

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE RURAL TRACK IN THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO**
102 **SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH,**
103 **REQUIRING THE SCHOOL TO PROVIDE TRAINING AND**
104 **SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDENTS WHO COMMIT TO PRACTICING**
105 **MEDICINE FOR A CERTAIN PERIOD OF TIME IN A RURAL OR**
106 **FRONTIER AREA THAT IS ALSO A PRIMARY CARE HEALTH**
107 **PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREA.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

The bill requires the university of Colorado school of medicine (school) to provide scholarships to students who:

- ! Will complete clinical studies in a rural or frontier area in Colorado;
- ! Have demonstrated financial need; and
- ! Have committed in writing to living and serving as physicians in rural or frontier areas in Colorado that are also primary care health professional shortage areas for at least 4 years following the completion of their residency training.

The bill requires the school to submit an annual written report to the education committees of the house of representatives and senate concerning the operation of the school's rural track during the preceding academic year.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1. Short title.** The short title of this act is the
3 "Colorado Rural Physicians Pipeline Act".

4 **SECTION 2. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
5 finds that:

6 (a) Of Colorado's sixty-four counties, twenty-four are designated
7 as "rural", and twenty-three are designated as "frontier", according to the
8 Colorado Rural Health Center;

9 (b) All Coloradans rely on these rural and frontier areas and the
10 citizens living within them for water, food production, and recreation;

11 (c) The availability of health care in a rural or frontier area is a
12 major contributor to the economy, safety, and livability of the community;

13 (d) Most of Colorado's forty-seven rural and frontier counties are
14 also designated as primary care health professional shortage areas by the
15 Colorado Rural Health Center;

16 (e) Approximately twenty percent of Colorado's five million
17 people live in rural and frontier areas, but only nine percent of Colorado's

1 physicians practice in these areas; and

2 (f) Physicians are essential members of health professional teams;

3 (2) The general assembly further finds that:

4 (a) The university of Colorado school of medicine is Colorado's

5 only public medical school;

6 (b) The university of Colorado school of medicine has a rural

7 track with a thirteen-year history of successfully attracting, admitting, and

8 producing physicians who are committed to living and working in rural

9 and frontier areas;

10 (c) The university of Colorado school of medicine's rural track

11 produces physicians who live and work in rural areas at a much higher

12 rate than physicians produced by the university's medical school at large;

13 (d) Medical students who obtain a significant amount of their

14 clinical training in rural communities and under the guidance of rural

15 physicians are much more likely to live and work in a rural or frontier

16 area after completing their medical school and residency training;

17 (e) The average debt of students graduating from the university of

18 Colorado school of medicine is two hundred twenty thousand dollars;

19 (f) High student debt deters medical students from practicing

20 medicine in rural and frontier areas; and

21 (g) Establishing and maintaining clinical training in rural and

22 frontier areas involves significant administrative costs.

23 (3) Therefore, the general assembly declares that:

24 (a) The provision of clinical training in rural and frontier areas for

25 students enrolled in the rural track at the university of Colorado school of

26 medicine serves the best interests of the state; and

27 (b) The state should offer scholarships to students who

1 demonstrate financial need and a commitment to serving and practicing
2 in rural or frontier areas that are also primary care health professional
3 shortage areas.

4 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 23-20-141 as
5 follows:

6 **23-20-141. School of medicine - rural track - definitions -**
7 **support for clinical studies - scholarships - reports.** (1) AS USED IN
8 THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

9 (a) "EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES" INCLUDES:

10 (I) IDENTIFYING RURAL AREAS AND FRONTIER AREAS IN WHICH
11 STUDENTS MAY ACCOMPLISH THEIR CLINICAL TRAINING;

12 (II) ESTABLISHING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN STUDENTS AND
13 FAMILY PHYSICIANS IN RURAL AREAS AND FRONTIER AREAS WHO CAN
14 SERVE AS PRECEPTORS; AND

15 (III) PROVIDING INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT AND ADMINISTRATIVE
16 RESOURCES.

17 (b) "FRONTIER AREA" MEANS A FRONTIER AREA, AS DEFINED IN
18 SECTION 39-22-538 (2)(b).

19 (c) "FRONTIER SHORTAGE AREA" MEANS A FRONTIER AREA, AS
20 DEFINED IN SECTION 39-22-538 (2)(b), THAT IS ALSO A HEALTH
21 PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREA.

22 (d) "GENERALIST PHYSICIAN" MEANS A FAMILY PHYSICIAN, A
23 GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE PHYSICIAN, A GENERAL PEDIATRICIAN, OR
24 A GENERAL SURGEON.

25 (e) "HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREA" MEANS A
26 STATE-DESIGNATED HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREA, AS DEFINED
27 IN SECTION 25-1.5-402 (11), OR AN AREA THAT IS DESIGNATED AS A

1 PRIMARY CARE HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREA BY THE HEALTH
2 RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION OF THE FEDERAL
3 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

4 (f) "PRECEPTOR" MEANS A PHYSICIAN LICENSED PURSUANT TO
5 ARTICLE 36 OF TITLE 12 WHO ASSUMES THE RESPONSIBILITY OF TEACHING,
6 SUPERVISING, AND EVALUATING A MEDICAL STUDENT AS PART OF THE
7 STUDENT'S CURRICULUM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO SCHOOL OF
8 MEDICINE.

9 (g) "RURAL AREA" MEANS A RURAL AREA, AS DEFINED IN SECTION
10 39-22-538 (2)(g).

11 (h) "RURAL SHORTAGE AREA" MEANS A RURAL AREA, AS DEFINED
12 IN SECTION 39-22-538 (2)(g), THAT IS ALSO A HEALTH PROFESSIONAL
13 SHORTAGE AREA.

14 (2) FOR THE 2019-20 ACADEMIC YEAR, AND FOR EACH ACADEMIC
15 YEAR THEREAFTER, SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, THE
16 UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE SHALL:

17 (a) PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES FOR STUDENTS AND
18 PRECEPTORS IN THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE'S RURAL TRACK;

19 (b) PAY IN FULL OR IN PART THE HOUSING EXPENSES OF STUDENTS
20 ENROLLED IN THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE'S RURAL TRACK WHILE THE
21 STUDENTS ARE LOCATED IN RURAL AREAS OR FRONTIER AREAS; AND

22 (c) PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDENTS IN THE SCHOOL OF
23 MEDICINE'S RURAL TRACK, AS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS
24 SECTION.

25 (3) (a) FOR THE 2019-20 ACADEMIC YEAR, AND FOR EACH
26 ACADEMIC YEAR THEREAFTER, SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS,
27 THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE SHALL AWARD

1 SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDENTS WHO:

2 (I) ARE ENROLLED IN THE SCHOOL'S RURAL TRACK;

3 (II) WILL COMPLETE CLINICAL STUDIES IN A RURAL AREA OR A
4 FRONTIER AREA;

5 (III) HAVE DEMONSTRATED FINANCIAL NEED; AND

6 (IV) HAVE COMMITTED IN WRITING TO LIVING AND SERVING AS
7 GENERALIST PHYSICIANS IN A RURAL SHORTAGE AREA OR FRONTIER
8 SHORTAGE AREA FOR AT LEAST FOUR YEARS FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION
9 OF THEIR RESIDENCY TRAINING.

10 (b) EACH SCHOLARSHIP MUST BE IN AN AMOUNT OF AT LEAST TEN
11 THOUSAND DOLLARS PER YEAR AND BE RENEWABLE ANNUALLY FOR EACH
12 OF THE STUDENT'S FOUR YEARS OF MEDICAL SCHOOL.

13 (c) THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE WITHIN THE SCHOOL OF
14 MEDICINE SHALL ISSUE OR DENY SCHOLARSHIPS BASED ON AN EVALUATION
15 OF EACH SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANT'S DEMONSTRATED FINANCIAL NEED AND
16 DEMONSTRATED COMMITMENT TO SERVING AS A GENERALIST PHYSICIAN
17 IN A RURAL SHORTAGE AREA OR FRONTIER SHORTAGE AREA FOR AT LEAST
18 FOUR YEARS FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF THE APPLICANT'S RESIDENCY
19 TRAINING.

20 (d) AN ENTITY WITHIN A RURAL SHORTAGE AREA OR FRONTIER
21 SHORTAGE AREA MAY OFFER ITS OWN SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDENTS WHO
22 COMMIT TO SERVING IN THE AREA. IN ANY YEAR IN WHICH THE NUMBER OF
23 APPLICANTS FOR A SCHOLARSHIP DESCRIBED IN THIS SUBSECTION (3)
24 EXCEEDS THE NUMBER OF AVAILABLE SCHOLARSHIPS, THE SCHOOL OF
25 MEDICINE, IN AWARDING THE SCHOLARSHIPS, SHALL GIVE PRIORITY TO
26 APPLICANTS WHO HAVE BEEN AWARDED A SCHOLARSHIP OF ANY AMOUNT
27 FROM AN ENTITY WITHIN A RURAL SHORTAGE AREA OR FRONTIER

1 SHORTAGE AREA TO WHICH THE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANT HAS COMMITTED
2 TO SERVE.

3 (e) BEFORE ACCEPTING A SCHOLARSHIP ISSUED BY THE SCHOOL OF
4 MEDICINE PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (3), A STUDENT SHALL COMMIT
5 IN WRITING TO SERVING AS A GENERALIST PHYSICIAN IN A RURAL
6 SHORTAGE AREA OR FRONTIER SHORTAGE AREA FOR AT LEAST FOUR YEARS
7 FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF THE STUDENTS' RESIDENCY TRAINING. A
8 STUDENT WHO FAILS TO FULFILL THE COMMITMENT AFTER ACCEPTING A
9 SCHOLARSHIP SHALL REMIT THE FULL AMOUNT OF THE SCHOLARSHIP TO
10 THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE.

11 (f) THE ISSUANCE OF A SCHOLARSHIP TO A STUDENT PURSUANT TO
12 THIS SUBSECTION (3) DOES NOT AFFECT THE STUDENT'S ELIGIBILITY OR
13 INELIGIBILITY FOR THE COLORADO HEALTH SERVICE CORPS DESCRIBED IN
14 PART 5 OF ARTICLE 1.5 OF TITLE 25.

15 (4) (a) ON JULY 1, 2020, AND ON JULY 1 EACH YEAR THEREAFTER,
16 THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE SHALL SUBMIT A WRITTEN REPORT TO THE
17 EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND
18 SENATE, OR TO ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES, CONCERNING THE
19 OPERATION OF THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE'S RURAL TRACK DURING THE
20 PRECEDING ACADEMIC YEAR. THE REPORT MUST INCLUDE:

21 (I) A DESCRIPTION OF THE EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES
22 OFFERED TO STUDENTS IN THE RURAL TRACK, INCLUDING THE RESPECTIVE
23 COSTS OF THE EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES; AND

24 (II) THE NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED BY THE SCHOOL OF
25 MEDICINE PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION, INCLUDING AN
26 INDICATION OF THE AREAS OF THE STATE IN WHICH EACH SCHOLARSHIP
27 RECIPIENT SERVES.

1 (b) NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I), THE
2 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (4)(a) OF THIS
3 SECTION CONTINUE INDEFINITELY.

4 **SECTION 4. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
5 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
6 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
7 2, 2019, if adjournment sine die is on May 3, 2019); except that, if a
8 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
9 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
10 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
11 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
12 November 2020 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
13 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.