

CHAPTER 585

S.B. No. 218

AN ACT

relating to loan repayment assistance for certain family practice physicians.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Section 61.532, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 61.532. **ELIGIBILITY.** (a) To be eligible to receive repayment assistance, a physician must apply to the coordinating board and have completed at least one year of medical practice:

(1) in private practice in an economically depressed or rural medically underserved area of the state; [or]

(2) for one of the following state agencies:

(A) Texas Department of Health;

(B) Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation;

(C) Texas Department of Corrections; or

(D) Texas Youth Commission; or

(3) for an approved family practice residency training program established under Subchapter I of this chapter.

(b) The coordinating board may by rule provide for repayment assistance on a pro rata basis for physicians practicing part-time for an approved family practice residency training program established under Subchapter I of this chapter or a state agency specified in Subsection (a) of this section.

SECTION 2. Subsection (a), Section 61.537, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The coordinating board shall adopt rules necessary for the administration of this subchapter, including a rule that sets a maximum amount of repayment assistance that may be received by a physician in one year and a rule that authorizes the Family Practice Residency Advisory Committee to establish priorities among eligible physicians for repayment assistance, by taking into account the degree of physician shortage, geographic locations, and other criteria the committee considers appropriate.

SECTION 3. Subchapter J, Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 61.538 to read as follows:

Sec. 61.538. **TOTAL AMOUNT OF REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE.** *The total amount of repayment assistance distributed by the board may not exceed the total amount of gifts and grants accepted by the board for repayment assistance, medical school tuition set aside under Section 61.539 of this code, and legislative appropriations for repayment assistance.*

SECTION 4. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended, and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

Passed the Senate on March 8, 1993: Yeas 31, Nays 0; the Senate concurred in House amendment on May 23, 1993: Yeas 30, Nays 0; passed the House, with amendment, on May 21, 1993: Yeas 134, Nays 0, one present not voting.

Approved June 13, 1993.

Effective June 13, 1993.