

**As Introduced**

**131st General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2015-2016**

**S. B. No. 66**

**Senator Tavares**

**Cosponsors: Senators Thomas, Skindell**

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**A BILL**

To enact sections 4782.01, 4782.02, 4782.03, 1  
4782.04, 4782.05, 4782.06, 4782.07, 4782.08, and 2  
4782.09 of the Revised Code to require the 3  
Director of Health to establish the Ohio Health 4  
Care Professional Loan Repayment Program. 5

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That sections 4782.01, 4782.02, 4782.03, 6  
4782.04, 4782.05, 4782.06, 4782.07, 4782.08, and 4782.09 of the 7  
Revised Code be enacted to read as follows: 8

**Sec. 4782.01.** As used in sections 4782.01 to 4782.09 of 10  
the Revised Code: 11

(A) "Primary care specialty" means all of the following: 12

(1) In the case of a physician or physician assistant, 13  
family practice, obstetrics and gynecology, general internal 14  
medicine, geriatrics, pediatrics, and psychiatry; 15

(2) In the case of a certified nurse practitioner, adult 16  
practice, family practice, pediatrics, psychiatric-mental 17

health, geriatrics, and women's health; 18

(3) In the case of a dentist, general dentistry and 19  
pediatric dentistry. 20

(B) "Qualifying educational loans" means outstanding 21  
government or commercial loans for undergraduate or graduate 22  
education that are obtained and used solely for tuition and 23  
other reasonable educational expenses and for reasonable living 24  
expenses. 25

**Sec. 4782.02.** The director of health shall establish and 26  
administer the Ohio health care professional loan repayment 27  
program, which shall be modeled on the national health services 28  
corps loan repayment program. To the extent funds are available, 29  
the program shall provide grants to health care professionals to 30  
assist in repayment of qualifying educational loans. 31

The program shall be in addition to and administered 32  
separately from the physician loan repayment program established 33  
under sections 3702.71 to 3702.81 of the Revised Code, the 34  
dentist loan repayment program established under sections 35  
3702.85 to 3702.95 of the Revised Code, and the dental hygienist 36  
loan repayment program established under sections 3702.96 to 37  
3702.967 of the Revised Code. 38

**Sec. 4782.03.** The director of health may solicit and 39  
accept gifts and grants to be used for the Ohio health care 40  
professional loan repayment program. Any gifts or grants, 41  
application fees, amounts received due to failure to complete 42  
service obligations, and amounts appropriated by the general 43  
assembly shall be deposited into the state treasury to the 44  
credit of the health care professional loan repayment program 45  
fund, which is hereby created. 46

Sec. 4782.04. The director of health shall adopt rules, as 47  
specified in this section, for the administration of the Ohio 48  
health care professional loan repayment program. The director 49  
may adopt any other rules the director considers appropriate for 50  
the administration of the program. 51

The rules shall establish the amounts of the grants to be 52  
made to participants, service obligations required of 53  
participants, and monetary penalties for failure to complete 54  
service obligations. The rules may provide for varying grant 55  
amounts based on the length of service obligations and whether 56  
the service is to be full-time or part-time. 57

The rules shall specify the information and supporting 58  
documentation that must be provided by applicants for 59  
participation in the program. The rules may establish 60  
application fees. 61

All rules shall be adopted in accordance with Chapter 119. 62  
of the Revised Code. 63

Sec. 4782.05. The director of health may designate as a 64  
health service site for the purposes of the Ohio health care 65  
professional loan repayment program any health care facility 66  
that provides outpatient primary health services to persons 67  
residing in urban or rural health resource shortage areas 68  
designated under section 3702.76 of the Revised Code. 69

Sec. 4782.06. The director of health shall accept and 70  
consider an application for the Ohio health care professional 71  
loan repayment program from any of the following health care 72  
professionals who are authorized to practice in this state: 73

(A) A physician who practices a primary care specialty and 74  
has one of the following qualifications: 75

(1) Certification in a primary care specialty from a 76  
specialty board approved by the American board of medical 77  
specialties or the American osteopathic association; 78

(2) Has completed, or will complete prior to commencing 79  
service, a residency program approved by the accreditation 80  
council for graduate medical education or the American 81  
osteopathic association in a primary care specialty. 82

(B) A physician assistant who practices under the 83  
supervision of a physician who practices a primary care 84  
specialty; 85

(C) A certified nurse practitioner who practices a primary 86  
care specialty; 87

(D) A certified nurse-midwife; 88

(E) A clinical nurse specialist who specializes in 89  
psychiatric or mental health services; 90

(F) A dentist who practices a primary care specialty; 91

(G) A dental hygienist; 92

(H) An independent marriage and family therapist; 93

(I) A licensed professional clinical counselor; 94

(J) A licensed independent social worker; 95

(K) A psychologist who has passed the examination for 96  
professional practice of psychology. 97

**Sec. 4782.07.** To be eligible to participate in the Ohio 98  
health care professional loan repayment program, a health care 99  
professional must meet all of the following requirements: 100

(A) Be a citizen or national of the United States by birth 101

or naturalization; 102

(B) Participate or be eligible to participate as a 103  
provider in one or more of the following: medicare, medicaid, 104  
and the children's health insurance program; 105

(C) Have accepted a position at a health service site 106  
designated by the director of health under section 4782.05 of 107  
the Revised Code; 108

(D) Not have any outstanding service obligation for health 109  
professional or other service to the federal government or 110  
another entity that will not be completed before participation 111  
in the program begins; 112

(E) Not be in breach of a health professional service 113  
obligation to the federal government or a state or local 114  
government; 115

(F) Not be excluded, debarred, suspended, or disqualified 116  
by a federal agency for misconduct. 117

**Sec. 4782.08.** Application for the Ohio health care 118  
professional loan repayment program shall be made on a form 119  
developed and provided by the department of health. An 120  
application is complete only if it includes all information and 121  
supporting documentation required by rules adopted under section 122  
4782.04 of the Revised Code. The application must be accompanied 123  
by any fee required by those rules. 124

**Sec. 4782.09.** The director of health shall consider each 125  
qualified applicant for the Ohio health care professional loan 126  
repayment program on the basis of the applicant's ability and 127  
commitment to service to the medically underserved in health 128  
shortage areas. The director shall select the program's 129  
participants. The director shall determine the amount of each 130

grant and each participant's service obligation in accordance 131  
with rules adopted under section 4782.04 of the Revised Code. 132

A health care professional who accepts a grant from the 133  
program shall fulfill the service obligation specified by the 134  
director. A health care professional who fails to fulfill a 135  
service obligation without good cause shall repay the amount 136  
accepted and pay the monetary penalty specified in rules adopted 137  
under section 4782.04 of the Revised Code. The director shall 138  
determine whether there is good cause for failure to complete a 139  
service obligation. The director's decision is final. 140