

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the Medical Education Reimbursement and Loan Repayment Program; requiring the Department of Health to conduct a pilot project for implementation of the program in specified counties; providing purpose of the pilot project; providing applicability of the Medical Education Reimbursement and Loan Repayment Program to the pilot project; requiring the department to submit a report to the Governor and Legislature; providing for expiration; authorizing the department to adopt rules; requiring the department to request sufficient funding for the pilot project; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (3) of section 1009.65, Florida Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (4) and amended, and a new subsection (3) is added to that section, to read:

1009.65 Medical Education Reimbursement and Loan Repayment Program.—

(3) The Department of Health shall conduct a pilot project for implementation of the Medical Education Reimbursement and Loan Repayment Program in Calhoun, DeSoto, Glades, Gulf, Flagler, Franklin, Gadsden, Hamilton, Jefferson, Madison, Putnam, and Taylor Counties. The purpose of the pilot project is

27 to determine:

28 (a) The effectiveness of the program in combination with
 29 similar federal programs, such as the National Health Service
 30 Corps State Loan Repayment Program, at encouraging medical
 31 doctors and doctors of osteopathic medicine to practice in the
 32 underserved locations of the pilot counties with primary care
 33 specialties in general and family practice; and

34 (b) The long-term retention rate in the underserved
 35 locations of the pilot counties of the medical doctors and
 36 doctors of osteopathic medicine who participate in the program.

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 38 The provisions of this section relating to eligibility, amounts
 39 of payments, and other requirements of the program apply to the
 40 pilot project. Before the 2021 regular session of the
 41 Legislature, the Department of Health shall submit a report of
 42 its findings and recommendations, based on implementation of the
 43 pilot project, to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and
 44 the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The subsection
 45 expires June 30, 2021.

46 (4)~~(3)~~ The Department of Health may adopt any rules
 47 necessary for the administration of this section ~~the Medical~~
 48 ~~Education Reimbursement and Loan Repayment Program.~~ The
 49 department may also solicit technical advice regarding conduct
 50 of the program from the Department of Education and Florida
 51 universities and Florida College System institutions. The
 52 Department of Health shall submit a budget request for an amount

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53 | sufficient to fund medical education reimbursement, loan
54 | repayments, ~~and~~ program administration, and implementation of
55 | the pilot project.

56 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.