

By Senator Montford

3-00675A-14

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Medical Education Reimbursement
3 and Loan Repayment Program; amending s. 1009.65, F.S.;
4 requiring the Department of Health to conduct a pilot
5 project for implementation of the program in specified
6 counties; providing purpose of the pilot project;
7 providing applicability of the Medical Education
8 Reimbursement and Loan Repayment Program to the pilot
9 project; requiring the department to submit a report
10 to the Governor and Legislature; providing for
11 expiration; authorizing the department to adopt rules;
12 requiring the department to request sufficient funding
13 for the pilot project; providing an effective date.

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

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

20 1009.65 Medical Education Reimbursement and Loan Repayment
21 Program.—

22 (3) The Department of Health shall conduct a pilot project
23 for implementation of the Medical Education Reimbursement and
24 Loan Repayment Program in Calhoun, DeSoto, Glades, Gulf,
25 Flagler, Franklin, Gadsden, Hamilton, Jefferson, Madison,
26 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

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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.

37
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
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.