

AN ACT

relating to the use of a portion of medical school tuition for student loan repayment assistance for physicians.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 61.539, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 61.539. MEDICAL SCHOOL TUITION SET ASIDE FOR CERTAIN LOAN REPAYMENTS. (a) The governing boards of each medical unit of an institution of higher education shall cause to be set aside two percent of tuition charges for each student [~~resident students~~] registered in a medical branch, school, or college.

(b) The amount set aside shall be transferred to the comptroller of public accounts to be maintained in the state treasury for the sole purpose of repayment of student loans of a physician [~~physicians~~] serving in a designated state agency [~~agencies~~] or in an area of this state that is economically depressed or that is a [rural] medically underserved area or health professional shortage area, [~~areas of the state~~] as designated by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, that has a current shortage of physicians [~~specified by this subchapter~~]. Section [~~Sections 403.094(h) and~~] 403.095, Government Code, does [~~do~~] not apply to the amount set aside by this section.

(c) As soon as practicable after each state fiscal year, the comptroller shall prepare a report for that fiscal year of the

1 number of students registered in a medical branch, school, or  
2 college, the total amount of tuition charges collected by each  
3 institution, the total amount transferred to the treasury under  
4 this section, and the total amount available under Subsection (b)  
5 for the repayment of student loans of physicians under this  
6 subchapter. The comptroller shall deliver a copy of the report to  
7 the board and to the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of  
8 the house of representatives not later than January 1 following the  
9 end of the fiscal year covered by the report.

10 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies  
11 beginning with tuition fees charged to students registered in a  
12 medical branch, school, or college for the 2003-2004 academic year.

13 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
14 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
15 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
16 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
17 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1420 was passed by the House on April 24, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 139, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 1420 on May 30, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 135, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1420 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 28, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

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Governor