

1                   **HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

2                                   **PROGRAM AMENDMENTS**

3   2020 GENERAL SESSION

4   STATE OF UTAH

5                                   **Chief Sponsor: Raymond P. Ward**

6                                   Senate Sponsor: Daniel Hemmert

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8   **LONG TITLE**

9   **General Description:**

10           This bill amends provisions relating to the Health Care Workforce Financial Assistance  
11 Program.

12 **Highlighted Provisions:**

13           This bill:  
14           ▶ defines terms;  
15           ▶ permits the department to provide education loan repayment assistance to geriatric  
16 or health care professionals under certain circumstances; and  
17           ▶ makes technical changes.

18 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

19           None

20 **Other Special Clauses:**

21           None

22 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

23 AMENDS:

24           **26-46-101**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2009, Chapter 97

25           **26-46-102**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2009, Chapter 97

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27 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

28           Section 1. Section **26-46-101** is amended to read:

29           **26-46-101. Definitions.**

30           (1) "Eligible professional" means a geriatric professional or a health care professional  
31 who is eligible to participate in the program.

32           ~~[(1)]~~ (2) "Geriatric professional" means a person who:

33           (a) is a licensed:

34           (i) health care professional;

35           (ii) social worker;

36           (iii) occupational therapist;

37           (iv) pharmacist;

38           (v) physical therapist; or

39           (vi) psychologist; and

40           (b) is determined by the department to have adequate advanced training in geriatrics to  
41 prepare the person to provide specialized geriatric care within the scope of the person's  
42 profession.

43           ~~[(2)]~~ (3) "Health care professional" means:

44           (a) a licensed:

45           (i) physician;

46           (ii) physician assistant;

47           (iii) nurse;

48           (iv) dentist; or

49           (v) mental health therapist; or

50           (b) another licensed health care professional designated by the department by rule.

51           (4) "Program" means the Utah Health Care Workforce Financial Assistance Program  
52 created in Section [26-46-102](#).

53           ~~[(3)]~~ (5) "Underserved area" means an area designated by the department as  
54 underserved by health care professionals, based upon the results of a needs assessment  
55 developed by the department in consultation with the Utah Health Care Workforce Financial

56 Assistance Program Advisory Committee created under Section 26-46-103.

57 Section 2. Section 26-46-102 is amended to read:

58 **26-46-102. Creation of program -- Duties of department.**

59 (1) There is created within the department the Utah Health Care Workforce Financial  
60 Assistance Program to provide, within funding appropriated by the Legislature for [this  
61 ~~purpose~~] the following purposes:

62 (a) professional education scholarships and loan repayment assistance to health care  
63 professionals who locate or continue to practice in underserved areas; and

64 (b) loan repayment assistance to geriatric professionals who locate or continue to  
65 practice in underserved areas.

66 (2) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the  
67 department shall make rules governing the administration of the program, including rules that  
68 address:

69 (a) application procedures;

70 (b) eligibility criteria;

71 (c) selection criteria;

72 (d) service conditions, which at a minimum shall include professional service in an  
73 underserved area for a minimum period of time by any person receiving a scholarship or loan  
74 repayment assistance;

75 (e) penalties for failure to comply with service conditions or other terms of a  
76 scholarship or loan repayment contract;

77 (f) criteria for modifying or waiving service conditions or penalties in case of extreme  
78 hardship or other good cause; and

79 (g) administration of contracts entered into before the effective date of this act,  
80 between the department and scholarship or loan repayment recipients, as authorized by law.

81 (3) The department may provide education loan repayment assistance to an eligible  
82 professional if the eligible professional:

83 (a) agrees to practice in an underserved area for the duration of the eligible  
84 professional's participation in the program; and

85 (b) submits a written commitment from the health care facility employing the eligible  
86 professional that the health care facility will provide education loan repayment assistance to the  
87 eligible professional in an amount equal to 20% of the total award amount provided to the  
88 eligible professional.

89 ~~[(3)]~~ (4) The department shall seek and consider the recommendations of the Utah  
90 Health Care Workforce Financial Assistance Program Advisory Committee created under  
91 Section 26-46-103 as it develops and modifies rules to administer the program.

92 ~~[(4)]~~ (5) Funding for the program:

93 (a) shall be a line item within the appropriations act;

94 (b) shall be nonlapsing unless designated otherwise by the Legislature; and

95 (c) may be used to cover administrative costs of the program, including reimbursement  
96 expenses of the Utah Health Care Workforce Financial Assistance Program Advisory  
97 Committee created under Section 26-46-103.

98 ~~[(5) Loan repayments and payments resulting from]~~

99 (6) Refunds for loan repayment assistance, penalties for breach of contract, and other  
100 payments to the program are dedicated credits to the program.

101 ~~[(6)]~~ (7) The department shall prepare an annual report on the revenues, expenditures,  
102 and outcomes of the program.