

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 372—ASSEMBLYWOMAN KASAMA

MARCH 22, 2021

Referred to Committee on Ways and Means

SUMMARY—Provides for the establishment of a program to attract providers of health care to this State. (BDR 34-988)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact.
Effect on the State: Yes.

CONTAINS UNFUNDED MANDATE (§ 6)
(NOT REQUESTED BY AFFECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENT)

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets [omitted material] is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to health care; establishing the Doctors of Nevada Program to reimburse the educational debt of physicians who practice in this State and to provide stipends to resident physicians who commit to practicing in this State; requiring the imposition of an assessment on each county in this State to pay a portion of the costs of the program; providing for the establishment of a consortium of certain entities for the purpose of increasing the number of physicians and other providers of health care in this State; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law establishes the Medical Education Council of Nevada within the University of Nevada School of Medicine to ensure that Nevada has an adequate, well-trained health care workforce to meet the needs of the residents of this State. (NRS 396.908) **Sections 2-8** of this bill require the Council to establish and administer the Doctors for Nevada Program to: (1) reimburse the educational debt of physicians who relocate to this State to practice medicine; and (2) provide stipends to resident physicians in any state who commit to practice medicine in this State for at least 2 years after the conclusion of their residencies and to reimburse the educational debt of those physicians after the conclusion of their residencies. **Sections 2-4** of this bill define relevant terms. **Section 5** of this bill prescribes the manner in which the reimbursements and stipends under the Program are required to be paid and prohibits the Program from paying more than \$200,000 in stipends and reimbursements to any physician or resident physician. **Section 5** requires a resident physician who receives a stipend and does not practice medicine in this



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State for at least 2 continuous years after the conclusion of his or her residency to reimburse the Program for the cost of the stipend and pay an additional penalty in the amount of the stipend. **Section 6** of this bill requires the Council to fund the Program through a combination of: (1) penalties and reimbursements paid by such resident physicians; (2) gifts, grants and donations; (3) an assessment imposed on counties; and (4) legislative appropriations. **Section 6** also creates an account into which that money must be deposited. **Section 7** of this bill requires the Council to adopt regulations to carry out the provisions of **sections 2-7**. **Section 8** of this bill: (1) includes the establishment and administration of the Program in the required duties of the Council; and (2) additionally requires the Council to establish a consortium of institutions of higher education and community-based hospitals for the purpose of increasing the number of physicians and other providers of health care in this State.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Chapter 396 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 7, inclusive, of this act.

Sec. 2. *As used in NRS 396.908 and sections 2 to 7, inclusive, of this act, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in sections 3 and 4 of this act have the meaning ascribed in those sections.*

Sec. 3. *“Council” means the Medical Education Council of Nevada established pursuant to NRS 396.908.*

Sec. 4. *“Program” means the Doctors for Nevada Program established pursuant to section 5 of this act.*

Sec. 5. 1. *To the extent that money is available pursuant to section 6 of this act, the Council shall establish and administer the Doctors For Nevada Program to:*

(a) Reimburse the educational debt of physicians who meet the requirements established pursuant to section 7 of this act and relocate to this State to practice medicine; and

(b) Provide stipends to resident physicians in any state who meet the requirements established pursuant to section 7 of this act and commit to practice medicine in this State for at least 2 continuous years after the conclusion of their residencies and to reimburse the educational debt of those resident physicians after the conclusion of their residencies.

2. *Except as otherwise provided in subsection 5, the Program shall reimburse not more than \$200,000 of the educational debt of a participating physician who relocates to this State to practice medicine as follows:*

(a) One reimbursement that does not exceed \$60,000 after the first full year for which the participating physician practices medicine in this State;



(b) One reimbursement that does not exceed \$60,000 after the second full year for which the participating physician practices medicine in this State;

(c) One reimbursement that does not exceed \$40,000 after the third full year for which the participating physician practices medicine in this State; and

(d) One reimbursement that does not exceed \$40,000 after the fourth full year for which the participating physician practices medicine in this State.

3. The Program shall:

(a) Provide to a participating resident physician a stipend of not more than \$25,000 for each year of residency, or \$100,000 in total; and

(b) Reimburse not more than \$50,000 of the educational debt of a participating resident physician after each full year that he or she practices medicine in this State after the conclusion of his or her residency for not more than 2 years.

4. A resident physician who receives a stipend pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection 3 and does not practice medicine in this State for at least 2 continuous years after the conclusion of his or her residency shall:

(a) Reimburse the Council for the amount of the stipend that he or she received; and

(b) Pay an additional penalty to the Council equal to the amount of the stipend that he or she received.

5. The council shall deposit any reimbursement or penalty paid pursuant to subsection 4 in the Physicians Recruitment Account created by section 6 of this act and use the money to carry out the provisions of sections 2 to 7, inclusive, of this act.

6. The Council shall not approve a physician or resident physician for participation in the Program if he or she has had disciplinary action imposed against him or her in this State or any other jurisdiction. If disciplinary action is imposed against a participating physician or resident physician, the Council shall immediately terminate his or her participation in the Program.

Sec. 6. 1. The funding to carry out the provisions of sections 2 to 7, inclusive, of this act, other than the funding provided pursuant to subsection 5 of section 5 of this act, must be provided as follows:

(a) At least 50 percent of the funding must be provided through gifts, grants and donations;

(b) Not more than 25 percent must be provided through an assessment imposed on each county pursuant to subsection 2; and

(c) The remainder of the funding must be provided through legislative appropriation from the State General Fund.



2. *If the Council determines that sufficient money is available through the sources of funding described in paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection 1 to establish the Program, the Council shall impose an annual assessment on each county in this State in an amount calculated by the Council to provide the funding described in paragraph (b) of subsection 1.*

3. *The Physician Recruitment Account is hereby created in the State General Fund. The Council shall administer the Account.*

4. *Any money remaining in the Account at the end of a fiscal year including, without limitation, any unexpended appropriations made to the Account from the State General Fund, does not revert to the State General Fund, and the balance in the Account must be carried forward to the next fiscal year.*

5. *The Council shall deposit in the Account any money obtained pursuant to subsection 1. The money in the Account must only be used to carry out the provisions of sections 2 to 7, inclusive, of this act.*

Sec. 7. *The Council shall adopt any regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of sections 2 to 7, inclusive, of this act. Those regulations must establish:*

1. *Eligibility requirements for a physician or resident physician to participate in the Program;*

2. *The procedure by which a physician or resident physician may apply to participate in the Program; and*

3. *Procedures for awarding stipends and reimbursing educational debt pursuant to section 5 of this act.*

Sec. 8. NRS 396.908 is hereby amended to read as follows:

396.908 1. The Medical Education Council of Nevada is hereby established within the University of Nevada School of Medicine to ensure that Nevada has an adequate, well-trained health care workforce to meet the needs of the residents of this State. The Medical Education Council of Nevada shall:

(a) Determine the workforce needs for the provision of health care services in this State;

(b) Determine the number and types of positions of employment for which money appropriated to the Medical Education Council of Nevada may be used, including, without limitation, positions for practitioners, other providers of health care and other personnel to staff health care facilities and programs;

(c) Investigate and make recommendations to the University of Nevada School of Medicine and the Legislature on the status and needs of practitioners, other providers of health care and other personnel of health care facilities or programs;



(d) Determine a method for reimbursing institutions that sponsor practitioners, other providers of health care or other personnel of health care facilities or programs;

(e) To the extent authorized by federal law, prepare and submit a formal application to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services of the United States Department of Health and Human Services for the purpose of receiving and dispersing federal money for graduate medical education expenses;

(f) Distribute a portion of any money it receives for graduate medical education expenses in a manner that:

(1) Prepares postgraduate medical and dental residents, as defined by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, to provide inpatient, outpatient and hospital services in various communities and in geographically diverse settings;

(2) Encourages the coordination of interdisciplinary clinical training by practitioners and other providers of health care to such postgraduate medical and dental residents; and

(3) Promotes funding for accredited clinical training programs provided by practitioners or other providers of health care to such postgraduate medical and dental residents;

(g) Apply for grants, gifts and donations from public and private sources, including the Federal Government, to carry out the objectives of the Medical Education Council of Nevada;

(h) Initiate a cooperative agreement with the Department of Health and Human Services to promote the intergovernmental transfer of money for the purposes of receiving and dispersing money to carry out the objectives of the Medical Education Council of Nevada; ~~and~~

(i) Distribute additional financial resources to training programs for practitioners, other providers of health care or other personnel of health care facilities or programs in the State ~~and~~;

(j) Establish a consortium of institutions of higher education and community-based hospitals for the purpose of increasing the number of physicians and other providers of health care in this State; and

(k) Establish and administer the Program.

2. Any gift, donation, bequest, grant or other source of money received by the Medical Education Council of Nevada may be used to carry out the provisions of this section.

3. As used in this section, “practitioner” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 439A.0195.

Sec. 9. The provisions of NRS 354.599 do not apply to any additional expenses of a local government that are related to the provisions of this act.



- 1 **Sec. 10.** 1. This section becomes effective upon passage and
2 approval.
3 2. Sections 1 to 9, inclusive, of this act become effective:
4 (a) Upon passage and approval for the purpose of adopting any
5 regulations and performing any other preparatory administrative
6 tasks that are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act; and
7 (b) On October 1, 2021, for all other purposes.

