

Introduced by

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 43-28.1-01, 43-28.1-05, 43-28.1-08, and
2 43-28.1-09 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the dentists' loan repayment program.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-28.1-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **43-28.1-01. Loan repayment program - Dentists - Defined need - Maximum amount of**
7 **funds.**

8 1. Annually, the department of health and human services shall select, from a pool of
9 applicants, dentists who will provide dental services in cities or surrounding areas, or
10 both, in this state which the department of health and human services identifies as
11 having a defined need for dental services.

12 2. The dentists selected from this pool of applicants shall agree to accept medical
13 assistance patients and assignments or provide dental services in a public health
14 clinic, a practice with a focus on an underserved population, or a nonprofit dental
15 clinic.

16 3. A selected dentist who agrees to the terms of this program is eligible to receive funds
17 for the repayment of the dentist's education loans. The funds, which are payable over
18 a ~~five-year~~three-year period, may not exceed one hundred ~~fifty~~ thousand dollars per
19 applicant.

20 4. If the department of health and human services accepts any gifts, grants, or donations
21 under this chapter, the department of health and human services may select additional
22 dentists for participation in the loan repayment program under this chapter.

23 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-28.1-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is
24 amended and reenacted as follows:

1 **43-28.1-05. Eligible loans.**

2 1. The department of health and human services may provide for loan repayment funds
3 to a dentist who has received an education loan.

4 2. The department of health and human services may not provide funds for the
5 repayment of any loan that is in default at the time of the application.

6 3. The amount of repayment must be related to the dentist's outstanding education
7 loans. A dentist is eligible to receive loan repayment funds in an amount equal to the
8 outstanding balance of the dentist's education loans with applicable interest, or one
9 hundred fifty thousand dollars, whichever is less.

10 4. Loan repayment funds may not be used to satisfy other service obligations under
11 similar programs.

12 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-28.1-08 of the North Dakota Century Code is
13 amended and reenacted as follows:

14 **43-28.1-08. Payment - Termination.**

15 1. The department of health and human services may not provide any loan repayment
16 funds to a dentist under this chapter until the dentist has practiced at least six months
17 on a full-time basis in the city or surrounding areas, or both, the department of health
18 and human services has identified as having a defined need for dental services.

19 2. Except as otherwise provided, the department of health and human services shall
20 make payments under this chapter at the conclusion of each of the five~~three~~
21 twelve-month periods of service during which the dentist met the qualifying terms of
22 the contract. The department of health and human services may make a prorated
23 payment under this chapter if during the twelve-month period the dentist failed to meet
24 the qualifying terms of the contract.

25 3. Payments under this chapter terminate upon the earlier of completion of five~~three~~
26 years as a participant in this loan repayment program or failure of the dentist to meet
27 the qualifying terms under the contract.

28 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-28.1-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is
29 amended and reenacted as follows:

1 **43-28.1-09. Gifts, grants, and donations - Continuing appropriation.**

2 The department of health and human services may accept any conditional or unconditional
3 gift, grant, or donation for the purpose of providing funds for the repayment of dentists'
4 educational loans. If ~~any~~an entity desires to provide funds to the department of health and
5 human services to allow an expansion of the program beyond the dentists contemplated by this
6 chapter, the entity shall commit to fund fully the expansion for a period of ~~five~~three years. The
7 department of health and human services may contract with any public or private entity and
8 may expend any moneys available to the department of health and human services to obtain
9 matching funds for the purposes of this chapter. All money received as gifts, grants, or
10 donations under this section is appropriated as a continuing appropriation to the department of
11 health and human services for the purpose of providing funds for the repayment of additional
12 dentists' educational loans.