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Senator David Wilson

SENATE BILL 93: MEDICAL PROVIDER INCENTIVES/LOAN REPAYMENT

"An Act relating to a workforce enhancement program for health care professionals employed in the state; and providing for an effective date."

SECTIONAL ANALYSIS for Version U

Section. 1. Adds a new Article 2, *Health Care Professionals Workforce Enhancement Program*, to AS 18.29, *Health Care Professions Loan Repayment and Incentive Program*.

Sec. 18.29.100. The *legislative intent* is to increase the availability of health care services throughout the state, especially to underserved individuals or in health care professional shortage areas.

Sec. 18.29.105(a). The *program's purpose* is to address the increasing shortage of health care professionals in the state by expanding the distribution of health care professionals.

Sec. 18.29.105(b). Outlines the structure of the program, including application processes, public notice requirements, and a 12-year lifetime maximum for participation.

Sec. 18.29.105(c). Outlines the role and structure of the *advisory council*.

Sec. 18.29.105(d). Outlines the responsibilities of the *commissioner* and his or her relationship with the advisory council.

Sec. 18.29.105(e). Outlines requirements for the department's annual report to the advisory council.

Sec. 18.29.105(f). Specifies the department may contract for *services* and adopt *regulations*.

Sec. 18.29.110. Details the requirements for employer payments.

Sec. 18.29.115. Establishes the structure for initial and renewal payments and sets out annual maximum limits for student loan repayments and direct incentives for Tiers I, II, and III.

Sec. 18.29.120. States eligible professionals may receive *direct incentive* quarterly cash payments. Employers provide the payment amount.

Sec. 18.29.125. Pertains to student loan repayments.

Sec. 18.29.130. Details the eligibility requirements for direct incentive payments and student loans.

Sec. 18.29.199 Contains the *Definitions* Section.

Section 2. *Repeals* the existing health care loan repayment and incentive program in AS 18.29.010 – 18.29.099, which is scheduled to sunset July 1, 2019.

Section 3. *Applicability* to applications or contracts on or after July 1, 2019.

Section 4. Contains *transition* language stating the existing advisory council will act as a *transition council* until a new advisory council is appointed by the commissioner.

Section 5. States if sec. 1 of this Act takes effect after July 1, 2019, sec. 1 of this Act is retroactive to July 1, 2019.

Section 6. States sec. 5 of this Act takes *effect immediately* under AS 01.10.070(c).

Section 7. States that except for sec. 6, the *effective* date is July 1, 2019.