

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 615

BY REPRESENTATIVE STAGNI

HEALTH CARE/PROVIDERS: Provides for the dedication and use of the Health Care Employment Reinvestment Opportunity (H.E.R.O.) Fund

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact 17:3050.11(C)(1), relative to certain treasury funds; to provide
3 relative to the Health Care Employment Reinvestment Opportunity (H.E.R.O.) Fund;
4 to provide for use of the monies in the fund; to provide for plans and procedures for
5 programs developed in conjunction with the use of monies in the fund; to provide for
6 an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:3050.11(C)(1) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as
9 follows:

10 §3050.11. Health Care Employment Reinvestment Opportunity (H.E.R.O.)
11 Fund

12 * * *

13 C.(1) Subject to legislative appropriation and the approval of the Board of
14 Regents, the Louisiana Health Works Commission is hereby authorized and directed
15 to determine how monies in the fund are allocated and expended through a
16 multi-year plan, solely and exclusively for the following purposes and in the
17 following priorities:

18 (a) Meet the current and growing employment demands for ~~nursing and~~
19 ~~allied health professionals by increasing the capacity of nursing and allied health~~
20 ~~training programs through~~ doctors of medicine, doctors of osteopathy, physician

1 assistants, and advanced practice registered nurses in designated health professional
2 shortage areas, referred to in this Section as "HPSA", by supporting initiatives such
3 as increasing faculty positions and the number of clinical preceptors in nursing and
4 allied health schools. schools of medicine and nursing.

5 (b) Support ~~the nursing and allied health professions~~ doctors of medicine,
6 doctors of osteopathy, physician assistants, and advanced practice registered nurses
7 by providing incentives that financially support student financial stipends and tuition
8 forgiveness contingent upon employment in Louisiana healthcare facilities or ~~nursing~~
9 ~~or allied health schools.~~

10 (c) Provide incentives for ~~nursing and allied healthcare professionals~~ doctors
11 of medicine, doctors of osteopathy, physician assistants, and advanced practice
12 registered nurses to practice in Louisiana with an emphasis on HPSA and medically
13 underserved areas of the state.

14 * * *

15 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
16 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
17 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
18 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
19 effective on the day following such approval.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 615 Original 2024 Regular Session Stagni

Abstract: Provides for initiatives and incentives to increase the number of medical health professionals in underserved areas of the state.

Present law provides for the creation of the Health Care Employment Reinvestment Opportunity (H.E.R.O) Fund.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides for the Louisiana Health Works Commission to develop a plan to utilize monies in the fund to increase the capacity of nursing and allied health training programs, to provide financial stipends and tuition forgiveness to students in these fields,

CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.

and provide incentives for nursing and allied health professionals to practice in Louisiana with an emphasis on underserved areas of the state.

Proposed law changes the professions to incentivize with stipends and tuition forgiveness from nursing and allied health professionals to doctors of medicine, doctors of osteopathy, physician assistants, and advanced practice registered nurses in designated health professional shortage areas.

Effective upon governor's signature or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends 17:3050.11(C)(1))