

Senate Bill 188

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SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Requires health professionals to complete minimum practice requirement in time period immediately following completion of training requirements or execution of Rural Health Services agreement. Adds dentists to list of health professionals who may qualify for Rural Health Services Program.

Directs Office of Rural Health to select qualifying practice sites for purposes of program. Allows Oregon Student Assistance Commission to give preference for program participation to health professionals who agree to practice in certain communities.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to Rural Health Services Program; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 442.550,
3 442.555 and 442.560.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 442.550 is amended to read:

6 442.550. As used in ORS 442.550 to 442.570:

7 (1) "Commission" means the Oregon Student Assistance Commission.

8 **(2) "Dentist" means any person licensed to practice dentistry under ORS chapter 679.**

9 [(2)] **(3)** "Nurse practitioner" means any person [*who is*] licensed under ORS 678.375.

10 [(3)] **(4)** "Pharmacist" means any person licensed as a pharmacist under ORS chapter 689.

11 [(4)] **(5)** "Physician" means any person licensed to practice medicine under ORS chapter 677.

12 [(5)] **(6)** "Physician assistant" means any person licensed under ORS 677.495 and 677.505 to
13 677.525.

14 [(6)] **(7)** "Qualifying loan" means any loan made to a medical student, physician assistant stu-
15 dent, **dental student**, pharmacy student or nursing student under:

16 (a) Common School Fund loan program under ORS 348.040 to 348.090;

17 (b) Programs under Title IV parts B, D and E, of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended;
18 and

19 (c) The Health Professions Student Loan, Nursing Student Loan, Health Education Assistance
20 Loan and Primary Care Loan programs administered by the United States Department of Health and
21 Human Services.

22 **(8) "Qualifying practice site" means:**

23 **(a) A rural hospital as defined in ORS 442.470;**

24 **(b) A rural health clinic;**

25 **(c) A pharmacy that is located in a medically underserved rural community in Oregon**
26 **or a federally designated health professional shortage area and that is not part of a group**
27 **of six or more pharmacies under common ownership; or**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **(d) Another practice site in a medically underserved rural community in Oregon.**

2 **SECTION 2.** ORS 442.555 is amended to read:

3 442.555. (1) There is created the Rural Health Services Program, to be administered by the
4 Oregon Student Assistance Commission, pursuant to rules adopted by the commission. The purpose
5 of the program is to provide loan repayments on behalf of physicians, physician assistants, **dentists**,
6 pharmacists and nurse practitioners who agree to practice in a [*rural hospital as defined in ORS*
7 *442.470, in a rural health clinic, in a medically underserved rural community in Oregon as determined*
8 *in subsection (4) of this section or in a pharmacy that is located in a medically underserved rural*
9 *community in Oregon or a federally designated health professional shortage area and that is not part*
10 *of a group of six or more pharmacies under common ownership]* **qualifying practice site.**

11 (2) To be eligible to participate in the program, a prospective physician, physician assistant,
12 **dentist**, pharmacist or nurse practitioner shall submit a letter of interest to the commission. Ap-
13 plicants who are selected for participation according to criteria adopted by the commission in con-
14 sultation with the Office of Rural Health shall sign a letter of agreement stipulating that the
15 applicant agrees to abide by the terms stated in ORS 442.560.

16 (3) Subject to available resources, the commission may enter into agreements with not to exceed
17 10 prospective physicians, 10 prospective physician assistants, **10 prospective dentists**, 10 pro-
18 spective pharmacists and 10 prospective nurse practitioners each year. **The commission may give**
19 **preference to prospective physicians, physician assistants, dentists, pharmacists and nurse**
20 **practitioners who agree to practice in a community that has contributed funds to the Rural**
21 **Health Services Fund.**

22 (4) The Office of Rural Health shall adopt criteria to be applied to determine medically under-
23 served communities **and qualifying practice sites** for purposes of ORS 442.550 to 442.570 and for
24 the purposes of compliance with federal Public Law 95-210, establishing rural health clinics.

25 **(5) A qualifying practice site shall submit an application to the Office of Rural Health to**
26 **participate in the program. The office shall make a list of qualifying practice sites available**
27 **to prospective physicians, physician assistants, dentists, pharmacists and nurse practition-**
28 **ers.**

29 **SECTION 3.** ORS 442.560 is amended to read:

30 442.560. (1) Prospective physicians, physician assistants, **dentists**, pharmacists and nurse prac-
31 titioners who wish to participate in the Rural Health Services Program shall agree that:

32 (a) For each year of medical, physician assistant, **dental**, pharmacy or graduate school, the ap-
33 plicant designates an agreed amount, not to exceed \$25,000, as a qualifying loan subject to ORS
34 442.550 to 442.570.

35 (b) In the [*five years*] **time period immediately** following the completion of all residency re-
36 quirements or the [*five years*] **time period immediately** following the execution of a Rural Health
37 Services agreement with the Oregon Student Assistance Commission, whichever comes later, a
38 physician **or dentist** agrees to practice for at least three full years in a rural hospital as defined
39 in ORS 442.470, in a rural health clinic or in a medically underserved rural community in Oregon.

40 (c) For not less than three nor more than five years that a physician **or dentist** serves in a rural
41 hospital as defined in ORS 442.470, in a rural health clinic or in a medically underserved rural
42 community, the commission shall annually pay an amount [*equal to 20 percent*] **that is a percentage**
43 of the total of all qualifying loans made to the physician **or dentist** through the programs described
44 in ORS 442.550.

45 (d) In the [*four years*] **time period immediately** following the completion of physician assistant

1 or graduate school or the *[four years]* **time period immediately** following the execution of a Rural
 2 Health Services agreement with the commission, whichever comes later, a physician assistant or
 3 nurse practitioner agrees to practice for at least two years in a rural hospital as defined in ORS
 4 442.470, in a rural health clinic or in a medically underserved rural community in Oregon.

5 (e) For not less than two nor more than four years that a physician assistant or nurse practi-
 6 tioner practices in a rural hospital as defined in ORS 442.470, in a rural health clinic or in a med-
 7 ically underserved rural community, the commission shall annually pay an amount *[equal to 25*
 8 *percent]* **that is a percentage** of the total of all qualifying loans made to the physician assistant or
 9 nurse practitioner through the programs described in ORS 442.550.

10 (f) In the *[five years]* **time period immediately** following the completion of all pharmacy resi-
 11 dency requirements or the *[five years]* **time period immediately** following the execution of a Rural
 12 Health Services agreement with the commission, whichever comes later, a pharmacist agrees to
 13 practice for at least three full years in a rural hospital as defined in ORS 442.470, in a rural health
 14 clinic, in a medically underserved rural community in Oregon or in a pharmacy that is located in
 15 a medically underserved rural community in Oregon or a federally designated health professional
 16 shortage area and that is not part of a group of six or more pharmacies under common ownership.

17 (g) For not less than three nor more than five years that a pharmacist serves in a rural hospital
 18 as defined in ORS 442.470, in a rural health clinic, in a medically underserved rural community or
 19 in a pharmacy that is located in a medically underserved rural community or a federally designated
 20 health professional shortage area and that is not part of a group of six or more pharmacies under
 21 common ownership, the commission shall annually pay an amount *[equal to 20 percent]* **that is a**
 22 **percentage** of the total of all qualifying loans made to the pharmacist through the programs de-
 23 scribed in ORS 442.550.

24 (2) If the participant does not complete the full service obligation set forth in subsection (1)(b),
 25 (d) or (f) of this section, the commission shall collect 100 percent of any payments made by the
 26 commission to the participant under this program. In addition, a penalty equal to 50 percent of the
 27 qualifying loans and interest paid by the commission shall be assessed by the commission, to be
 28 credited to and deposited in the Rural Health Services Fund established under ORS 442.570.

29 (3) The Oregon Student Assistance Commission, in consultation with the Office of Rural Health,
 30 shall establish rules to allow waiver of all or part of the fees and penalties owed to the commission
 31 due to circumstances that prevent the participant from fulfilling the service obligation.

32 **SECTION 4. The amendments to ORS 442.550, 442.555 and 442.560 by sections 1 to 3 of this**
 33 **2007 Act apply to Rural Health Services agreements entered into between the Oregon Student**
 34 **Assistance Commission and physicians, physician assistants, dentists, pharmacists and nurse**
 35 **practitioners on or after the effective date of this 2007 Act.**

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