

1 State of Arkansas  
2 95th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2025  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1384

5 By: Representative L. Johnson  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE GRADUATE  
10 MEDICAL EDUCATION RESIDENCY EXPANSION BOARD; AND FOR  
11 OTHER PURPOSES.  
12  
13

## Subtitle

15 TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE GRADUATE  
16 MEDICAL EDUCATION RESIDENCY EXPANSION  
17 BOARD.  
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code §§ 6-82-2002 through 6-82-2005 are amended to  
22 read as follows:

23 6-82-2002. ~~Planning~~ Implementation grants—~~Definition.~~

24 ~~(a) As used in this subchapter, a “planning grant” is a grant awarded~~  
25 ~~by the Graduate Medical Education Residency Expansion Board to eligible~~  
26 ~~entities and individuals under this subchapter.~~

27 ~~(b) The board~~ Graduate Medical Education Residency Expansion Board  
28 shall:

29 (1) Allocate funds appropriated for purposes of this subchapter;

30 (2) Award a one-time ~~planning~~ implementation grant under this  
31 section to an in-state based entity in this state that:

32 (A) Is in the process of creating a new graduate medical  
33 education program; or

34 (B) Is expanding an existing graduate medical education  
35 program;

36 (3) Award ~~planning~~ implementation grants on a competitive basis



1 according to the criteria adopted by the board under its rules to include  
 2 without limitation consideration of the following:

3 (A) Development of a new or expanded program with a  
 4 specialty defined in the rules;

5 (B) Increasing positions for medical specialties having a  
 6 shortage within the state; and

7 (C) Increasing graduate medical education positions in  
 8 medically underserved areas in the state; and

9 (4) Determine the number of ~~planning~~ implementation grants  
 10 awarded and the amount of each ~~planning~~ implementation grant; and

11 (5) Determine the annual amount of grant award and the total  
 12 amount of grant award to be provided over the implementation period of the  
 13 new or expanding program.

14 ~~(e)(1) An application for a planning grant under this section shall be~~  
 15 ~~submitted by an entity to the board no later than July 15 of the year~~  
 16 ~~preceding the year for which the planning grant will be used.~~

17 ~~(2) The board shall award a planning grant to an eligible entity~~  
 18 ~~under this section no later than August 15 of the year in which the eligible~~  
 19 ~~entity's application was submitted.~~

20 ~~(d) An entity that is awarded a planning grant under this section and~~  
 21 ~~establishes additional first year residency positions after the receipt of a~~  
 22 ~~planning grant is eligible for additional funds for each position~~  
 23 ~~established.~~

24  
 25 6-82-2003. ~~Planning~~ Implementation grants for program expansion or new  
 26 programs.

27 (a) The Graduate Medical Education Residency Expansion Board shall  
 28 award ~~planning~~ implementation grants to enable entities ~~with existing~~  
 29 ~~graduate medical education programs~~ to:

30 (1) Increase the number of first-year residency or fellowship  
 31 positions in existing graduate medical education programs; and

32 (2) Provide for the establishment of new graduate medical  
 33 education programs with first-year residency positions.

34 ~~(b) The board shall determine the number of planning grants awarded~~  
 35 ~~under this section and the amount of each planning grant awarded under this~~  
 36 ~~section.~~

1           ~~(e)~~ An implementation grant under this section shall be  
 2 used to support the ~~direct resident~~ start-up costs to the graduate medical  
 3 education program, ~~including without limitation stipends and benefits at the~~  
 4 board's discretion.

5           ~~(d)~~(c) An entity applying for a ~~planning~~ an implementation grant under  
 6 this section shall:

7           ~~(1)~~ submit a plan for receiving accreditation for the  
 8 increased number of residency positions or for the new graduate medical  
 9 education program, as applicable, that shall include without limitation:

10           (1) A timeline;

11           (2) A budget;

12           (3) A proposed program;

13           (4) The number of existing slots within a proposed program  
 14 expansion;

15           (5) Letters of support from both the sponsoring institution and  
 16 clinical site;

17           (6) The number of current residency slots available; and

18           (7) The number of new residency slots that will be established  
 19 in a new program.; ~~and~~

20           ~~(2) Be submitted to the board no later than October 1 preceding~~  
 21 ~~the academic year for which the planning grant is made.~~

22           ~~(e)~~(d) The board shall:

23           ~~(1) Award a planning grant~~ award an implementation grant under  
 24 this section ~~no later than January 1 of the year in which the planning grant~~  
 25 ~~will be used~~ in the fourth calendar quarter on an annual basis as funding is  
 26 available; ~~and~~

27           ~~(2) Distribute a planning grant amount for a residency position~~  
 28 ~~under this section only upon receiving verification that the applicable~~  
 29 ~~residency position has been filled.~~

30           ~~(f)~~(1)(e) A ~~planning~~ An implementation grant awarded under this  
 31 section shall be in effect for no more than ~~three~~ (3) ~~consecutive fiscal~~  
 32 ~~years~~ the number of years of the program plus two (2) years for  
 33 implementation and accreditation before enrolling a resident or fellow.

34           ~~(2) For each first year residency position for which an entity~~  
 35 ~~with a graduate medical education program receives an initial planning grant~~  
 36 ~~under this section, the board shall award the entity with the graduate~~

1 ~~medical education program an equal planning grant amount for the following~~  
 2 ~~fiscal year, not to exceed three (3) fiscal years.~~

3 (f) An entity awarded an implementation grant under this section shall  
 4 provide a progress report to the board before the distribution of grant funds  
 5 for the following year.

6  
 7 6-82-2004. Priority of ~~planning~~ implementation grants – Adjustment of  
 8 amounts.

9 ~~(a)~~ If the Graduate Medical Education Residency Expansion Board  
 10 determines that the number of first-year residency positions proposed by  
 11 eligible applicants under § 6-82-2003 exceeds the amount of funding  
 12 appropriated for the ~~planning~~ implementation grants under this subchapter,  
 13 the board:

14 (1) May give priority for up to fifty percent (50%) of the  
 15 ~~funded first-year residency positions~~ implementation grant awards to be in:

16 (A) Primary care; ~~or~~

17 (B) A field in which ~~this state has less than eighty~~  
 18 ~~percent (80%) of the national average of physicians per one hundred thousand~~  
 19 ~~(100,000) people, as determined by the board based on the Association of~~  
 20 ~~American Medical Colleges State Physician Workforce Data Report~~ there is a  
 21 shortage in the state as determined by the board; or

22 (C) A new program or a program expansion that:

23 (i) Has the earliest start date; or

24 (ii) Will expand the cap of an Arkansas hospital;

25 and

26 (2) ~~Shall not reduce planning grant amounts awarded for each~~  
 27 ~~resident position, but may proportionately reduce the number of positions~~  
 28 ~~funded for each graduate medical education program.~~

29 ~~(b) If the board determines that, based on the applications it has~~  
 30 ~~received for planning grants under § 6-82-2003, the entire appropriation for~~  
 31 ~~planning grants under this subchapter shall not be awarded for a particular~~  
 32 ~~year, the board may transfer and use the funds appropriated to award planning~~  
 33 ~~grants under § 6-82-2002.~~

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 35 ~~6-82-2005. Planning grants for additional years of residency.~~

36 ~~(a) If the Graduate Medical Education Residency Expansion Board~~

~~1 determines that funds appropriated under this subchapter are available after  
2 all eligible planning grant applications under §§ 6-82-2002 and 6-82-2003  
3 have been funded, the board shall award planning grants from excess funds to  
4 support medical residents who:~~

~~5 (1) Have completed at least three (3) years of residency; and~~

~~6 (2) Are enrolled in a residency program in a field in which this  
7 state has less than eighty percent (80%) of the national average of  
8 physicians per one hundred thousand (100,000) people, as determined by the  
9 board.~~

~~10 (b) The board shall determine the following with respect to planning  
11 grants under this section:~~

~~12 (1) The amount of a planning grant awarded under this section;~~

~~13 (2) The number of planning grants awarded under this section;~~

~~14 and~~

~~15 (3) The residency fields in which recipients of planning grants  
16 under this section work.~~

~~17 (c) A planning grant under this section shall be used to support the  
18 direct resident costs to the graduate medical education program, including  
19 without limitation stipends and benefits.~~

~~20 (d) The board shall distribute a planning grant amount for a residency  
21 position under this section only upon receiving verification that the  
22 applicable residency position has been filled.~~

24 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 82, Subchapter 20, is  
25 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

26 6-82-2006. Definitions.

27 As used in this subchapter:

28 (1) “Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education” means  
29 the private, not-for-profit organization that oversees the accreditation of  
30 residency and fellowship programs for physicians in the United States;

31 (2) “Entity” means an:

32 (A) Arkansas hospital or medical facility that seeks to  
33 provide medical residency opportunities; and

34 (B) Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education  
35 sponsoring institution;

36 (3) “First-year residency position” means a position during the

1 first year of residency occurring after medical school graduation;

2 (4) "Fiscal year" means the fiscal year of the state for the  
3 conduct of its financial affairs commencing on July 1 and ending on June 30 of  
4 the following year;

5 (5) "Graduate medical education program" means the period of  
6 education in a particular specialty or residency or subspecialty or  
7 fellowship following medical school;

8 (6) "Implementation grant" means a grant awarded by the Graduate  
9 Medical Education Residency Expansion Board to eligible entities and  
10 individuals under this subchapter;

11 (7)(A) "Implementation period" means the amount of time in years  
12 to establish a new program or expanded slots for a program.

13 (B) "Implementation period" includes the number of years  
14 required for a resident or fellow to complete the program plus up to two (2)  
15 years of start-up costs before enrolling the first resident or fellow.

16 (8)(A) "Primary care" includes without limitation the following:

17 (i) Internal medicine;

18 (ii) Pediatrics;

19 (iii) Family medicine;

20 (iv) Obstetrics and gynecology;

21 (v) General Surgery; and

22 (vi) Psychiatry.

23 (B) "Primary care" also includes without limitation the  
24 transitional year;

25 (9) "Resident" means an individual enrolled in an Accreditation  
26 Council for Graduate Medical Education-accredited residency program;

27 (10)(A) "Residency program" means a structured educational  
28 activity comprising a series of clinical or other learning experiences in  
29 graduate medical education designed to prepare a physician to enter the  
30 unsupervised practice of medicine in a primary specialty.

31 (B) "Residency program" includes a program available for  
32 physician admission:

33 (i) Immediately upon graduation from a medical  
34 school or a college of osteopathic medicine as described in the institutional  
35 requirements of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education; and

36 (ii) After completion of prerequisite clinical

1 education and training as described in the relevant specialty-specific  
2 program requirements;

3 (11) "Specialty" means a field of medical practice that focuses  
4 on a specific set of patient care skills;

5 (12) "Sponsoring institution" means an entity that oversees,  
6 supports, and administers one (1) or more Accreditation Council for Graduate  
7 Medical Education-accredited residency or fellowship programs; and

8 (13) "Start-up costs" means a cost associated with program  
9 planning, Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education application  
10 preparation and submission, and other preliminary activities before a  
11 resident is present in the program.

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