

1 AN ACT concerning loan repayment assistance for  
2 physicians.

3 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
4 **represented in the General Assembly:**

5 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Loan  
6 Repayment Assistance for Physicians Act.

7 Section 5. Purpose. The purpose of this Act is to  
8 establish a program in the Department of Public Health to  
9 increase the total number of physicians in this State by  
10 providing educational loan repayment assistance grants to  
11 physicians.

12 Section 10. Definitions. In this Act, unless the context  
13 otherwise requires:

14 "Department" means the Department of Public Health.

15 "Educational loans" means higher education student loans  
16 that a person has incurred in attending a registered  
17 professional physician education program.

18 "Physician" means a person licensed under the Medical  
19 Practice Act of 1987 to practice medicine in all of its  
20 branches.

21 "Program" means the educational loan repayment assistance  
22 program for physicians established by the Department under this  
23 Act.

24 Section 15. Establishment of program. The Department shall  
25 establish an educational loan repayment assistance program for  
26 physicians who practice in Illinois. The Department shall  
27 administer the program and make all necessary and proper rules  
28 not inconsistent with this Act for the program's effective  
29 implementation. The Department may use up to 5% of the  
30 appropriation for this program for administration and

1 promotion of physician incentive programs.

2 Section 20. Application. Beginning July 1, 2005, the  
3 Department shall, each year, consider applications for  
4 assistance under the program. The form of application and the  
5 information required to be set forth in the application shall  
6 be determined by the Department, and the Department shall  
7 require applicants to submit with their applications such  
8 supporting documents as the Department deems necessary.

9 Section 25. Eligibility. To be eligible for assistance  
10 under the program, an applicant must meet all of the following  
11 qualifications:

12 (1) He or she must be a citizen or permanent resident  
13 of the United States.

14 (2) He or she must be a resident of Illinois.

15 (3) He or she must be practicing full-time in Illinois  
16 as a physician.

17 (4) He or she must currently be repaying educational  
18 loans.

19 (5) He or she must agree to continue full-time practice  
20 in Illinois for 3 years.

21 Section 30. The award of grants. Under the program, for  
22 each year that a qualified applicant practices full-time in  
23 Illinois as a physician, the Department shall, subject to  
24 appropriation, award a grant to that person in an amount equal  
25 to the amount in educational loans that the person must repay  
26 that year. However, the total amount in grants that a person  
27 may be awarded under the program shall not exceed \$25,000. The  
28 Department shall require recipients to use the grants to pay  
29 off their educational loans.

30 Section 35. Penalty for failure to fulfill obligation. Loan  
31 repayment recipients who fail to practice full-time in Illinois  
32 for 3 years shall repay the Department a sum equal to 3 times

1 the amount received under the program.

2 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,  
3 2005.