

# Vermont Legislative Joint Fiscal Office

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## FISCAL NOTE

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### H.607 An act relating to increasing the supply of primary care providers in Vermont – House Health Care Recommendation of Amendment, *Draft 1.5*

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2020/WorkGroups/House%20Health%20Care/Bills/H.607/Drafts,%20Amendments,%20and%20Summaries/H.607~Jennifer%20Carbee~%20Draft%201.5,%203-13-2020,%20As%20Recommended%20by%20the%20House%20Committee%20on%20Health%20Care~3-13-2020.pdf>

#### Rural Primary Care Physician Scholarship Program

Sec. 3 of the bill requires the Vermont Department of Health (VDH), in collaboration with the Office of Primary Care and Health Education Centers at the University of Vermont College of Medicine (AHEC) to establish a rural primary care physician scholarship program. This scholarship would provide medical school tuition for up to five third-year and up to five fourth-year medical students annually who commit to practicing primary care in a rural, health professional shortage or medically underserved area of the state. Recipients must incur two-years of full-time service or four-years of half-time service for each academic year of tuition covered by the scholarship.

Sec. 4 appropriates \$811,226.00 in Global Commitment investment funds to VDH in FY 2021 for this scholarship program.

	GF	FF	Gross
Rural Primary Care Physician Scholarships	\$370,000	\$441,226	\$811,226

#### Nurse Education Scholarships

Sec. 5 of the bill appropriates \$1,381,276.00 in Global Commitment investment funds to VDH for additional scholarships for nursing students through the Health Care Educational Loan Repayment Fund.<sup>1</sup> The bill also sets up priorities for how the funds should be administered.

	GF	FF	Gross
Nurse Education Scholarships	\$630,000	\$751,276	\$1,381,276

<sup>1</sup> The Health Care Educational Loan Repayment Fund was established in 18 V.S.A. § 10a. The bill would move this to 18 V.S.A. § 32

**Total Appropriation**

<b>Sec.#</b>		<b>GF</b>	<b>FF</b>	<b>Gross</b>
4	Rural Primary Care Physician Scholarships	\$370,000	\$441,226	\$811,226
5	Nurse Education Scholarships	\$630,000	\$751,276	\$1,381,276
		<b>\$1,000,000</b>	<b>\$1,192,502</b>	<b>\$2,192,502</b>

NOTE: Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Scott's proposed FY 2021 budget included \$1 million to create a new nurse tax relief proposal for recent graduates of nursing programs from Vermont colleges and universities. H.607 as recommended by the House Committee on Health care, proposes investing \$1 million of general fund dollars for these scholarship programs (as proposed in H.607) in lieu of the Governor's nurse tax relief proposal.