

Vermont Legislative Joint Fiscal Office

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FISCAL NOTE

Date: Updated July 2, 2020
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H.607 An act relating to increasing the supply of primary care providers in Vermont As passed by the House

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2020/H.607>

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.¹ 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

¹ 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

Sec. 5a reallocates \$1,000,000 from monies previously allocated in 2018 for expanding the Vermont workforce for substance use disorder treatment and mental health professionals that had not yet been expended to use as state match for the nursing and medical student scholarship provisions of this bill.²

Total Appropriation

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

² 2018 (Sp. Sess) Acts and Resolves No. 11, Sec. C.106, appropriated \$5 million from the Tobacco Litigation Settlement Fund to the Agency of Human Services in FY 2018 with specific allocations to be carried forward through FY 2022.