

# Vermont Legislative Joint Fiscal Office

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## *FISCAL NOTE*

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### **DH.607 An act relating to increasing the supply of primary care providers in Vermont** *Comparison of the House passed version and the Senate Appropriation amendment*

As passed the House: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2020/H.607>

Senate Appropriations Amendment – Draft 2.3: Link forthcoming

#### **Primary Care Physician Scholarship Program – Secs. 3, 4, and 7a**

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 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 meet specified criteria.<sup>1</sup> 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 of both versions appropriate Global Commitment investment funds to VDH in FY 2021 for this scholarship program.

	<b>GF</b>	<b>FF</b>	<b>Gross</b>
House Passed	\$370,000	\$441,226	\$811,226
Senate Appropriations Proposal	\$277,500	\$330,919	\$608,419

Sec. 7a of the Senate Appropriations amendment sunsets this program on July 1, 2022.

#### **Nurse Education Scholarships – Sec. 5**

Sec. 5 of both versions appropriate Global Commitment investment funds to VDH for additional scholarships for nursing students through the Health Care Educational Loan Repayment Fund.<sup>2</sup> The bill also sets up priorities for how the funds should be administered.

	<b>GF</b>	<b>FF</b>	<b>Gross</b>
House Passed	\$630,000	\$751,276	\$1,381,276
Senate Appropriations Proposal	\$472,500	\$563,457	\$1,035,957

<sup>1</sup> Note: In-state tuition at the University of Vermont Medical School for the 2020-2021 academic year is \$37,070.

<sup>2</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

**Scholarship Funding - Sec. 5a**

House Version – The House version appropriates \$1,000,000.00 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.<sup>3</sup>

Senate Appropriations Proposal – The Senate Appropriations proposal appropriates \$750,000.00 in General Funds, using \$550,000.00 in available general funds (based on the Senate passed version of the Big Bill) and reverting \$200,000.00 from funds appropriated to the Department of Economic Development for the Vermont Training Program to the General Funds.

**Total Appropriation - Summary**

<b>HOUSE PASSED</b>	<b>GF</b>	<b>FF</b>	<b>Gross</b>	<b>Sources of Funding</b>
Primary Care Physician Scholarships	\$370,000	\$441,226	\$811,226	Reverted from unexpended 2018 appropriation \$'s for MH/SUD workforce
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>	
<b>SENATE APPROPRIATIONS PROPOSAL</b>	<b>GF</b>	<b>FF</b>	<b>Gross</b>	<b>Sources of Funding</b>
Primary Care Physician Scholarships	\$277,500	\$330,919	\$608,419	\$550K from GF \$200K reverted from ACCD
Nurse Education Scholarships	\$472,500	\$563,457	\$1,035,957	
	<b>\$750,000</b>	<b>\$894,376</b>	<b>\$1,644,376</b>	

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<sup>3</sup> 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.