

State of Arkansas  
91st General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2017

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 350

By: Senator B. Sample

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES TO ACCOMMODATE A PHYSICIAN REQUIRED TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATION TO MAINTAIN OR OBTAIN A SPECIALTY PRACTICE OF MEDICINE TO COUNTERACT THE PHYSICIAN SHORTAGE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

TO REQUIRE THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES TO ACCOMMODATE A PHYSICIAN REQUIRED TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATION TO MAINTAIN OR OBTAIN A SPECIALTY PRACTICE OF MEDICINE TO COUNTERACT THE PHYSICIAN SHORTAGE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings.

The General Assembly finds that:

(1) The State of Arkansas is ranked as one (1) of the states with the least number of physicians per capita;

(2) In 2014, five thousand eight hundred (5,800) physicians practiced medicine in Arkansas;

(3) Of those five thousand eight hundred (5,800) physicians, three (3) out of every ten (10) physicians are at least sixty (60) years of age or older;

(4) As physicians retire, the state-wide physician population is getting smaller;



(5) Physicians tend to practice in areas where they are educated and where they have received residency training;

(6) Without an increase in residency positions within residency programs, graduates of medical schools will bottleneck waiting for residency positions in order to obtain their physician licensure;

(7) The Association of American Medical Colleges has predicted a physician shortage across the nation for some time and has called upon the medical schools of this nation to expand the residency positions available; and

(8) The State of Arkansas needs to increase residency positions to counteract the physician shortage in the state.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 64, Subchapter 4, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-64-423. Specialty certification – Unpaid residency position.

(a) The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences shall accommodate a physician or other person when the physician or other person is required to obtain additional certification to maintain or obtain a specialty practice of medicine by providing:

(1) The opportunity to attend and participate in any courses, seminars, professional development programs, residency programs, and other programs offered by the university in the particular specialty; and

(2) Any other educational materials or resources.

(b) If the physician or other person must participate in a residency program to fulfill additional certification to maintain or obtain a specialty practice of medicine and all paid residency positions have been filled, the university shall offer an unpaid residency position to the physician or other person.