

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

A Bill

SENATE BILL 504

By: Senator Irvin
By: Representative L. Johnson

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING HIGHER EDUCATION;
TO ESTABLISH THE ARKANSAS RURAL PRECEPTORSHIP PROGRAM
ACT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO ESTABLISH THE ARKANSAS RURAL
PRECEPTORSHIP PROGRAM ACT.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 60, is amended to add an additional subchapter to read as follows:

Subchapter 16 – Arkansas Rural Preceptorship Program Act

6-60-1601. Title.

This subchapter shall be known as the “Arkansas Rural Preceptorship Program Act”.

6-61-1602. Legislative findings and intent.

(a) The General Assembly finds that there is a shortage of physicians practicing within rural areas of the state.

(b) The General Assembly intends to support the creation of the Arkansas Rural Preceptorship Program, which will:

- (1) Combine the resources of public and private organizations;
- (2) Introduce medical students to a rural community to let the medical students experience the benefits of a rural community while raising a family and practicing medicine;



(3) Use a public-private partnership arrangement to assist rural communities in attracting new physicians to the rural communities; and

(4) Provide funding for preceptorship programs in rural communities.

6-60-1603. Arkansas Rural Preceptorship Program.

(a)(1) The Arkansas Rural Preceptorship Program is established to help provide funding for preceptorship programs in rural communities throughout the state.

(2) The program established under subdivision (a)(1) of this section shall provide an opportunity for medical students to be placed in a preceptorship at any participating clinic, hospital, federal qualified health center, or other healthcare facility.

(b) The following institutions shall be eligible to participate in the program:

(1) The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences;

(2) The Arkansas College of Osteopathic Medicine;

(3) The New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine at Arkansas State University; and

(4) The Alice L. Walton School of Medicine.

(c) The Division of Higher Education shall:

(1) Administer the program; and

(2) Release funding at the per diem rate to a participating institution under subdivision (b) of this section to reimburse the institution for any participating medical student for up to three (3) weeks of placement in the program.

(d) Funding for the program under this section may be provided from public or private funds.