

IN THE SENATE

SENATE BILL NO. 1365, As Amended

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO THE RURAL PHYSICIAN INCENTIVE FUND; AMENDING SECTION 33-3724,  
2 IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN MONEYS PAYABLE INTO THE FUND; AND  
3 AMENDING SECTION 33-3725, IDAHO CODE, TO DELETE A PROVISION RELATING  
4 TO THE AMOUNT CONTRACTUALLY COMMITTED IN A YEAR AND TO PROVIDE FOR A  
5 PREFERENCE.  
6

7 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

8 SECTION 1. That Section 33-3724, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby  
9 amended to read as follows:

10 33-3724. RURAL PHYSICIAN INCENTIVE FUND. There is hereby created the  
11 rural physician incentive fund in the state treasury. Money is payable into  
12 the fund as provided in section 33-3723, Idaho Code. Money is also payable  
13 into the fund from state appropriations, from private contributions, from  
14 gifts and grants, and from any other source. Income and earnings on the fund  
15 shall be returned to the fund. The state board of education shall administer  
16 the fund as provided by section 33-3725, Idaho Code. The state board of  
17 education shall identify an oversight committee made up of knowledgeable  
18 individuals or organizations to assist in the administration of this fund.  
19 Members of this oversight committee should come from the Idaho hospital  
20 association, Idaho medical association, office of rural health, Idaho rural  
21 health education center, medical student program administrators and others  
22 as appropriate.

23 SECTION 2. That Section 33-3725, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby  
24 amended to read as follows:

25 33-3725. INCENTIVE PAYMENTS FROM FUND. The moneys in the rural  
26 physician incentive fund are hereby appropriated for the uses of the fund.  
27 The state board of education may use the moneys to pay:

28 (1) The educational debts of rural physicians who practice primary care  
29 medicine in medically underserved areas of the state that demonstrate a need  
30 for assistance in physician recruitment; and

31 (2) The expenses of administering the rural physician incentive  
32 program. The expenses of administering the program shall not exceed ten  
33 percent (10%) of the annual fees assessed pursuant to section 33-3723, Idaho  
34 Code.

35 The board, through the oversight committee, shall establish procedures  
36 for determining the areas of the state that qualify for assistance in  
37 physician recruitment. An eligible area must demonstrate that a physician  
38 shortage exists or that the area has been unsuccessful in recruiting  
39 physicians by other mechanisms.

1 A physician from an area determined to be eligible under this section  
2 may apply to the board for payment of an educational debt directly related  
3 to a professional school. Physicians who have paid the fee authorized  
4 in section 33-3723, Idaho Code, shall be given a preference over other  
5 applicants. To receive the educational debt payments, the physician shall  
6 sign an annual contract with the board. The contract must provide that the  
7 physician is liable for the payments if the physician ceases to practice in  
8 the eligible area during the contract period.

9 The maximum amount of educational debt payment that a rural physician  
10 may receive is fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) over a five (5) year period.  
11 The board may structure the payment schedule to make greater payments in the  
12 later years. ~~The amount contractually committed in a year shall not exceed~~  
13 ~~the annual amount deposited in the rural physician incentive fund.~~

14 When determining an applicant's eligibility, the state board of  
15 education may give preference to those applicants who have paid into the  
16 rural physician incentive fund pursuant to section 33-3723, Idaho Code, but  
17 shall not exclude from consideration applicants who have not contributed to  
18 the fund.