

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 718

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO EDUCATION; AMENDING CHAPTER 37, TITLE 33, IDAHO CODE, BY THE  
2 ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 33-3731, IDAHO CODE, TO ESTABLISH PROVISIONS  
3 REGARDING CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS FOR IDAHO RESIDENTS WHO RECEIVE STATE  
4 SUPPORT FOR A MEDICAL EDUCATION, TO ESTABLISH PROVISIONS REGARDING A  
5 MEDICAL EDUCATION REIMBURSEMENT FUND, AND TO PROVIDE AUTHORITY TO THE  
6 STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING AN  
7 EFFECTIVE DATE.  
8

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

10 SECTION 1. That Chapter 37, Title 33, Idaho Code, be, and the same is  
11 hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and des-  
12 ignated as Section 33-3731, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

13 33-3731. CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE-SUPPORTED MEDICAL STUDENTS  
14 -- MEDICAL EDUCATION REIMBURSEMENT FUND. (1) An individual who qualifies  
15 as an Idaho resident pursuant to section 33-3717B, Idaho Code, and who is  
16 accepted into the Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, Idaho (WWAMI) re-  
17 gional medical education program or into the university of Utah school of  
18 medicine in a slot reserved for an Idaho student shall, before confirming  
19 enrollment in such program or school, enter into a contract with the state  
20 board of education or the board's designee, which contract shall specify  
21 that the individual will commit to entering active full-time professional  
22 practice in Idaho for a period of four (4) years within one (1) year of:

- 23 (a) Obtaining a license to practice medicine;  
24 (b) Finishing a residency or subspecialty residency; or  
25 (c) Finishing a medical education fellowship as defined by the state  
26 board of education or the board's designee.

27 (2) Each year of a residency served in Idaho, up to four (4) years, will  
28 be credited as one-half (1/2) year of the practice requirement provided in  
29 subsection (1) of this section. After the fourth year, no credit shall be  
30 given for any additional residency years.

31 (3) An individual who fails to abide by the contract described in sub-  
32 section (1) of this section shall reimburse the state for the state's finan-  
33 cial obligation in supporting the individual's medical education, as deter-  
34 mined by the state board of education or the board's designee. Reimbursement  
35 must:

- 36 (a) Begin within one (1) year of:  
37 (i) Obtaining a license to practice medicine;  
38 (ii) Finishing a residency or subspecialty residency; or  
39 (iii) Finishing a medical education fellowship as defined by the  
40 state board of education or the board's designee;  
41 (b) Be paid according to an amortized schedule established by the state  
42 board of education or the board's designee; and

1 (c) Be completed within eight (8) years of the date the reimbursement  
2 requirement began.

3 (4) The reimbursement obligation described in subsection (3) of this  
4 section:

5 (a) Shall not accrue any interest; and

6 (b) May, by act of the state board of education or the board's designee,  
7 be:

8 (i) Suspended if reimbursement is temporarily impossible or  
9 would create extreme hardship for a temporary period, including  
10 but not limited to suspension for medical reasons, personal rea-  
11 sons, parental leave, or call to active duty in the armed forces;  
12 or

13 (ii) Waived if:

14 1. Reimbursement is permanently impossible or would create  
15 extreme hardship, including but not limited to death, in-  
16 ability to complete the program, or inability to obtain a li-  
17 cense to practice medicine; or

18 2. The individual owing reimbursement is participating in  
19 a program of the federal government or United States armed  
20 forces that has a service requirement.

21 (5) The provisions of this section shall apply to individuals matricu-  
22 lating in the WWAMI program or the university of Utah school of medicine in  
23 fall 2023 and thereafter.

24 (6) There is hereby established in the state treasury a medical educa-  
25 tion reimbursement fund, which shall be administered by the state board of  
26 education or the board's designee. Moneys in the fund shall:

27 (a) Consist of:

28 (i) Reimbursement paid pursuant to subsection (3) of this sec-  
29 tion;

30 (ii) Legislative appropriations;

31 (iii) Donations; and

32 (iv) Interest earned on idle moneys in the fund; and

33 (b) Be used for, subject to availability:

34 (i) The costs of administering and enforcing the provisions of  
35 this section; and

36 (ii) Incentive grants in an amount and according to a program  
37 established under state board of education policy. Such grants  
38 shall be awarded to licensed physicians who practice medicine in  
39 Idaho and who meet other criteria provided in board policy.

40 (7) The state board of education is authorized to take such actions as  
41 are necessary to effectuate the provisions of this section.

42 SECTION 2. An emergency existing therefor, which emergency is hereby  
43 declared to exist, this act shall be in full force and effect on and after  
44 July 1, 2022.