

Legislative Analysis



MICHIGAN ESSENTIAL HEALTH PROVIDER PROGRAM REVISIONS

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Senate Bill 649 as passed by the Senate
Sponsor: Senator Marleau

House Committee: Appropriations
Senate Committee: Appropriations

Complete to 4-28-14

A SUMMARY OF SENATE BILL 649 AS PASSED BY THE SENATE

Senate Bill 649 as passed by the Senate modifies Part 27 of the Public Health Code regarding the Michigan Essential Health Provider program. This program was created under Public Act 16 of 1990.

Part 27 includes two sub-programs, a Minority Grant Program for low-income minority students enrolled in medical schools, nursing programs, and physician's assistant programs, and the State Loan Repayment Program to assist primary care providers (medical, dental, and mental health) in the repayment of medical education loans. Financial assistance under either program would be in exchange for service in designated health professional shortage areas for 1 - 4 years. The Minority Grant Program is not currently being implemented. The State Loan Repayment Program has been funded and supporting providers since 1991.

Senate Bill 649 would:

- Allow eligible dentists to participate in the Minority Grant Program.
- Removes a 2-year minimum for the service period in repayment of the grant under the Minority Grant Program; instead the service period would be equal to the number of years for which a grant is accepted.
- Establish an additional requirement to the biennial report that the law requires for Part 127: an assessment of the State Loan Repayment Program maximum amounts compared to current medical education costs.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Senate Bill 649 as passed by the Senate has no fiscal implications for the Minority Grant Program as it is not currently not being funded or implemented. The bills may have modest cost implications for Department of Community Health staff time related to the additional requirement for the biennial report.

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