**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 43‑21‑200, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO PHYSICIANS SELECTED AS PARTICIPANTS IN THE STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM OF THE DIVISION ON AGING, SO AS TO CHANGE CERTAIN PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Section 43‑21‑200(C) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(C)(1) A physician accepted for the program shall execute a contract with the division in which the physician agrees:

(a) to practice in this State for no fewer than five consecutive years immediately following completion of his or her fellowship;

(b) to accept Medicare and Medicaid patients;

(c) to accept reimbursement or contractual binding rates; and

(d) not to discriminate against patients based on the ability to pay.

(2) Upon execution of the contract, the division shall reimburse student loan payments made by the physician during the last completed calendar quarter. No more than ~~four~~ two physicians a year may participate in the program unless sufficient funding is available to reimburse, in accordance with this section, more than ~~four~~ two physicians a year. The total amount that may be reimbursed to one physician is ~~thirty‑five~~ one hundred thousand dollars multiplied by the number of years of the fellowship completed, prorated for periods less than one year.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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