

SUBSTITUTE FOR  
SENATE BILL NO. 246

A bill to amend 1978 PA 368, entitled  
"Public health code,"  
by amending section 2705 (MCL 333.2705), as amended by 2016 PA 499.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1           Sec. 2705. (1) The department shall administer an essential  
2 health provider repayment program for designated professionals who  
3 have incurred a debt or expenses as a result of a loan taken to  
4 attend a medical school, dental school, **mental health professional**  
5 **program**, nursing program for the training of certified nurse  
6 midwives, certified nurse practitioners, or clinical nurse  
7 specialists-certified, or physician's assistant program or as a  
8 result of providing services in a health resource shortage area.  
9 The department may each year repay all or part of a designated

1 professional's debt or expenses, but the amount repaid in any 1  
2 year shall not exceed the amount described in subsection (3). The  
3 department shall repay a debt or expenses only for a designated  
4 professional who has entered into a written contract with the  
5 department that requires the designated professional to engage in  
6 the full-time practice of health care services in a health resource  
7 shortage area to which he or she is assigned by the department for  
8 a period equal in years to the number of years for which the  
9 department has agreed in the contract to make a debt or expense  
10 repayment, or for a period of 2 years, whichever is greater.

11 (2) A debt or expense repayment on behalf of a designated  
12 professional under subsection (1) for fulfilling a service  
13 obligation for a particular year must be paid in a lump sum at the  
14 completion of the service obligation for that year. A designated  
15 professional who does not fulfill a service obligation for a  
16 particular year forfeits his or her right to the debt or expense  
17 repayment or any part of it for that year and the department may  
18 treat an agreement for further debt or expense repayment in a  
19 subsequent year as void. In its sole discretion, the department may  
20 make a debt or expense repayment before or during each year of  
21 service if there are extenuating circumstances. In its sole  
22 discretion, the department may pay a pro rata amount of an agreed  
23 debt or expense repayment to a designated professional or his or  
24 her estate if 1 of the following occurs before the completion of  
25 the designated professional's service obligation:

26 (a) The designated professional dies.

27 (b) The designated professional is unable, by reason of  
28 permanent disability, to render the service.

29 (c) Other circumstances prevail that are considered by the

1 department to constitute a compelling reason to consider the  
2 service obligation fulfilled.

3 (3) In any year of a debt or expense repayment program, the  
4 maximum amount of a debt or expense repayment is \$40,000.00 per  
5 year. The maximum amount of debt or expense repayment the  
6 department may pay on behalf of a designated professional is  
7 ~~\$200,000.00~~, ~~\$300,000.00~~, paid over a period of ~~4-10~~ years or more.  
8 The written contract described in subsection (1) must include the  
9 amount the department shall pay on behalf of a designated  
10 professional and the amount payable for each year of service.

11 (4) The department may accept funds from any source for the  
12 operation of the essential health provider repayment program, and  
13 the department shall distribute those funds in a manner consistent  
14 with this section.

15 (5) The department shall give the essential health provider  
16 repayment program created by this section priority over the other  
17 programs created under this part.

18 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act does not take effect  
19 unless Senate Bill No.\_\_\_\_ or House Bill No.\_\_\_\_ (request no.  
20 03155'21) of the 101st Legislature is enacted into law.