

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2935**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Strom-Martin**

February 25, 2002

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An act to add Article 5 (commencing with Section 128050) to Chapter 2 of Part 3 of Division 107 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to health professions.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2935, as introduced, Strom-Martin. Health professions: education: pharmacists: scholarship and loan repayment program.

Existing law requires the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development to perform various functions and duties with respect to health policy and planning and health professions development, including administering the federal National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program and the federal National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program. Under the existing programs, federal funds are provided to states for the purpose of providing scholarships to health professions students or repaying qualifying educational loans of specified health care professionals who commit to serve a specified time period as a provider of health services, at practice sites in designated health professional shortage areas. Under the existing programs, the practice site is also responsible for repaying a portion of the health care professional's outstanding loan amount.

Existing law establishes the Health Manpower Policy Commission and prescribes the powers and duties of the commission, which include identifying specific areas of the state where unmet priority needs for primary care family physicians exist.

This bill would establish in the office the California Pharmacist Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program to provide scholarships to pay for the educational expenses of pharmacy students and to repay qualifying educational loans of pharmacists who agree to serve in areas of the state where unmet priority needs for primary care family physicians exist as determined by the Health Manpower Policy Commission.

The bill would require the office to administer the California Pharmacist Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program utilizing the same general guidelines applicable to the federal National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program and the federal National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program, with the exception that no matching funds shall be required from any entity in the practice site area.

This bill would declare the intent of the Legislature to fund the California Pharmacist Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program by imposing a surcharge on pharmacists and pharmacies, due at licensure renewal, to be deposited in a fund that would be continuously appropriated, without regard to fiscal year, to the office for the administration of the program.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. It is the intent of the Legislature to enact  
2 legislation to fund the California Pharmacist Scholarship and Loan  
3 Repayment Program established by this act by imposing a  
4 surcharge on pharmacists and pharmacies, due at licensure  
5 renewal, to be deposited in a fund that would be continuously  
6 appropriated, without regard to fiscal years, to the Office of  
7 Statewide Health Planning and Development for the  
8 administration of the program.

9 SEC. 2. Article 5 (commencing with Section 128050) is  
10 added to Chapter 2 of Part 3 of Division 107 of the Health and  
11 Safety Code, to read:  
12



1 Article 5. California Pharmacist Scholarship and Loan  
2 Repayment Program  
3

4 128050. (a) (1) There is hereby established in the Office of  
5 Statewide Health Planning and Development the California  
6 Pharmacist Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program.

7 (2) The program shall provide scholarships to pay for the  
8 educational expenses of pharmacy school students and repay  
9 qualifying educational loans of pharmacists who agree to  
10 participate in designated medically underserved areas as provided  
11 in this section.

12 (b) The Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development  
13 shall administer the California Pharmacist Scholarship and Loan  
14 Repayment Program utilizing the same general guidelines  
15 applicable to the federal National Health Service Corps  
16 Scholarship Program established pursuant to Section 254I of Title  
17 42 of the United States Code and the National Health Service  
18 Corps Loan Repayment Program established pursuant to Section  
19 254I-1 of Title 42 of the United States Code, except as follows:

20 (1) A pharmacist or pharmacy school student shall be eligible  
21 to participate in the program if he or she agrees to provide  
22 pharmacy services in a practice site located in areas of the state  
23 where unmet priority needs for primary care family physicians  
24 exist as determined by the Health Manpower Policy Commission.

25 (2) No matching funds shall be required from any entity in the  
26 practice site area.

