Specialty Practice Medical Student Loan Program; HB 2374

HB 2374 creates the Specialty Practice Student Loan Program and amends provisions of the Medical Student Loan Act.

Specialty Practice Student Loan Program

The bill establishes a Specialty Practice Student Loan Program (Program) administered by the University of Kansas (KU) School of Medicine. The school is authorized to enter into medical student loan agreements with undergraduate students who intend to pursue practice in an approved specialty and commit to satisfy obligations to engage in the full-time practice of medicine and surgery in a service commitment area. The Chancellor of KU (Chancellor) has the authority to administer the Program, including discretion to allocate which specialties are eligible for the loan based on workforce needs.

Medical Student Loan Act

The bill amends definitions applicable to the provisions of the Medical Student Loan Act (Act) to:

- Expand the definition of "approved postgraduate residency training program" to include residency or fellowship training in an approved specialty;

- Define "service commitment area" for approved specialty providers as any community within any county in Kansas other than Douglas, Johnson, Sedgwick, Shawnee, or Wyandotte;

- Define "approved specialty" as gynecology, general psychiatry, and any specialty approved by the Chancellor; and

- Define "primary care" as general pediatrics, general internal medicine, family medicine, family practice, and emergency medicine.

The bill further amends the Act to provide Program stipends for a 12-month period rather than months the recipient is enrolled in school.

The bill removes language requiring KU to enter into agreements with up to 12 recipients, subject to appropriation, who would commit to satisfy obligations by serving as a full-time faculty member of the KU School of Medicine in general psychiatry or child psychiatry or to perform at least 100 hours per month of on-site mental health care. The bill removes the option for a participant to satisfy the obligation by serving as a full-time faculty member in general or child psychiatry.

The bill prohibits the Chancellor from expending Medical Loan Repayment Fund moneys for participants in an approved specialty; however, the bill allows the Chancellor to transfer

funds from the Medical Loan Repayment Fund to the Specialty Loan Repayment Fund for medical student loans for students in approved specialty programs.

The bill establishes the Specialty Medical Loan Repayment Fund. The bill allows any moneys remaining at the end of the year for specialty agreements to be used for primary care agreements. The bill abolishes the OBGYN Medical Loan Repayment Fund and the Psychiatry Medical Loan Repayment Fund and requires any remaining moneys and liabilities to be those of the Specialty Medical Loan Repayment Fund.