

SESSION OF 2023

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 98**

As Amended by Senate Committee on  
Education

**Brief\***

SB 98, as amended, would include medical residency training programs in obstetrics and gynecology (OBGYN) as part of the postgraduate medical residency programs a person could enter into in order to qualify for state medical student and medical residency loan assistance.

Under current law, the University of Kansas Medical Center (KUMC) administers two loan programs to incentivize the practice of medicine in certain areas of the state and in certain facilities of the state: the Medical Student Loan Program and the Medical Residency Bridging Program (loan programs). The bill would add OBGYN to the list of approved qualifying residency programs for both loan programs.

Under current law, any person who fails to complete an approved residency training program or fails to satisfy the obligation to engage in the full-time practice of medicine and surgery within a service commitment area for the required period of time must repay all money received from the Medical Student Loan Program or the Medical Residency Bridging Program, plus accumulated interest at an annual rate of 15 percent.

The bill would exempt a person, or a person's spouse, who is unable to satisfy their obligations due to active military service from paying the 15 percent annual interest rate on any moneys received under such programs. Similarly, the bill would allow a person participating in a health-related

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\*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

fellowship to postpone the obligation to engage in the practice of medicine and surgery for not more than one year.

The bill would prohibit a person who completed an approved OBGYN residency training program from performing or inducing, or attempting to perform or induce, an abortion, or work for or create a clinic that performs or induces abortions during the time such person is satisfying the service requirement under the loan programs. A person who fails to satisfy the service requirement due to the performance or inducement, or attempt at such, of an abortion would be required to repay all money received pursuant to the loan, plus accumulated interest at an annual rate of 15 percent. [Note: A person who performs or induces, or attempts to perform or induce, an abortion in the case of a medical emergency or in the case of a pregnancy resulting from rape or incest would not be deemed to have failed to complete the service requirement.]

The bill would also establish the OBGYN Medical Loan Repayment Fund and the OBGYN Medical Residency Bridging Fund to be used for OBGYN residency training programs.

The bill would authorize the Kansas Board of Regents to award osteopathic medical service scholarships to Kansas residents who are undergraduate students enrolled in or admitted to pre-accredited schools of osteopathic medicine.

## **Background**

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Education at the request of a representative of the Kansas Chapter of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

### ***Senate Committee on Education***

In the Senate Committee hearing on February 20, 2023, **proponent** testimony was provided by representatives of the Kansas Health Science Center - Kansas College of Osteopathic Medicine and the Kansas Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and a private citizen. Written-only proponent testimony was provided by the Executive Director of the Kansas Medical Society and two representatives of the Kansas College of Osteopathic Medicine. Proponents testified generally that the bill would help to ensure that Kansans who live in rural areas of the state have access to quality OBGYN services.

Neutral testimony was provided by a representative of KUMC, who provided general information on the Medical Student Loan Program and the Medical Residency Bridging Program.

No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to:

- Remove the 15 percent annual interest rate penalty during the time period a person is unable to satisfy their obligations under the programs due to active military service;
- Extend scholarship eligibility to Kansas students who attend pre-accredited schools of osteopathic medicine; and
- Postpone the obligation to engage in the practice of medicine and surgery for not more than one year during which a person participates in a health-related fellowship program.

## **Fiscal Information**

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, KUMC indicates the bill would require an additional \$57,327 per OBGYN medical student loan agreement and \$10,000 per OBGYN medical residency bridging loan agreement annually; however, payments would be subject to appropriations. KUMC indicates that without additional state appropriation, the expansion could reduce available awards that would have otherwise gone to students enrolled in primary care programs. KUMC estimates the bill would increase annual expenditures by \$27,000, for an additional 0.4 FTE position to administer the program.

Medical student loan program; residency training program; service commitment area; osteopathic medical service scholarship; OBGYN medical loan repayment fund