



# LRS Reports

Legislative Research Service



---

## SUMMARY OF SENATE BILL ON SECOND READING\*

First Regular Session, Eighteenth Congress

**S. NO 1520 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP AND RETURN SERVICE PROGRAM FOR DESERVING STUDENTS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*(In Substitution of S.B. Nos. 1, 1130, and 1283)*

Authors: Senators Vicente C. Sotto III, Ralph G. Recto, and Joel Villanueva

Referred to Primary Committee: Higher, Technical and Vocational Education

Secondary Committees: Health and Demography  
Finance

Key words: Medical scholarship, licensure test, state universities, and colleges (SUCs), private higher education institutions (PHEIs)

---

This bill creates a scholarship and return of service program for qualified students who shall pursue or are currently pursuing a Doctor of Medicine degree in state universities and colleges (SUCs) and private higher education institutions (PHEIs). By integrating the graduates of this program into the public health system, this measure intends to address the lack of medical attention of the underprivileged and the population in the underserved, remote and economically underdeveloped areas.

The scholarship grant shall cover the following: (1) tuition and other school fees; (2) books, supplies and equipment; (3) clothing or uniform; (4) dormitory or boarding house allowance; (5) internship fees, including financial assistance during the required internship period; (6) medical review fees and licensure fees; (7) annual medical insurance; and (8) subsistence or living allowance.

The following are qualified to apply for the scholarship: (1) natural-born or naturalized Filipino citizen residing in the Philippines; (2) a family income insufficient to support medical education; (3) graduating student or a graduate of an undergraduate degree course that is a prerequisite for a Doctor of Medicine degree from a CHED-recognized school; (4) direct entrants of the Integrated Liberal Arts Medicine (INTARMED) Program of the University of the Philippines or those who have satisfactorily completed the first two years of this program; (5) incoming second year medical

---

\* LRS publishes summarized information of Senate bills under consideration for second reading in the First Regular Session, 18<sup>th</sup> Congress. The annual budget (General Appropriations Act); tax, banking and finance, and other bills which are predominantly fiscal in nature will not be included in the LRS reports.

students or those in the higher years who have maintained at least a passing grade in the past terms preceding their application for the scholarship grant; (6) have passed the entrance test and other requirements for admission to the Doctor of Medicine degree in the SUC or PHEI where the applicant intends to enrol; and (7) have obtained a National Medical Admission Test (NMAT) score as mandated by CHED and the required cut-off score by the SUC or PHEI where the applicant intends to enrol.

Once accepted in the scholarship program, students should satisfy other requirements such as: carrying a full load per semester; no dropping which will lead to underloading; finishing the program within the prescribed time-frame given by the SUC or HEI; pursuing their internship in a DOH-accredited public facility or hospital; and taking the medical board examination within one year after completing the internship period.

In exchange for the scholarship grant, the new doctor shall serve in a government or public health office or in a government hospital in her/ his hometown, province or region or in an underserved municipality as determined by the DOH. Service shall commence within one year from passing the licensure examination for physicians. The doctor shall be required to render one year of service for every year that the scholarship grant is availed of. This mandatory return service shall be distinct from the return service, if any, that is required by the SUC or the PHEI in which the physician have availed of the scholarship. Nor does this include the mandatory post-graduate internship in a DOH-accredited facility required by the Professional Regulatory Commission (PRC) prior to taking the licensure test and the residency training.

This bill imposes sanctions for those who fail to satisfy the return of service requirements unless the new physician contracts severe or serious illness in which case she/ he will be unable to perform the service required.

Funding of the program shall be charged against the current year's appropriation of the participating SUC, DOH and CHED. Continuous implementation of this scholarship grant shall be lodged under the annual scholarship program of SUCs and CHED in the General Appropriations Act (GAA).

*(Summary prepared by: Ma. Trinidad D. Llorito, 18 May 2020)*

---

\* LRS publishes summarized information of Senate bills under consideration for second reading in the First Regular Session, 18<sup>th</sup> Congress. The annual budget (General Appropriations Act); tax, banking and finance, and other bills which are predominantly fiscal in nature will not be included in the LRS reports.