

[Third Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 2801

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman LOUIS D. GREENWALD

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Assemblywoman ELIANA PINTOR MARIN

District 29 (Essex and Hudson)

Assemblyman HERB CONAWAY, JR.

District 7 (Burlington)

Senator GORDON M. JOHNSON

District 37 (Bergen)

Senator ROBERT W. SINGER

District 30 (Monmouth and Ocean)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywomen N.Munoz, Reynolds-Jackson, Assemblyman Tully, Assemblywomen Lampitt, Lopez, McCoy, Assemblymen Wimberly, Stanley, Assemblywoman Speight, Assemblyman Miller, Assemblywomen Donlon, Peterpaul, Assemblymen Rodriguez, Freiman, Sampson, Assemblywomen Haider and Park

SYNOPSIS

Renames, extends eligibility, and makes various other changes to Primary Care Practitioner Loan Redemption Program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As amended on January 12, 2026 by the General Assembly pursuant to the Governor's recommendations.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/18/2025)

1 AN ACT concerning the Primary Care Practitioner Loan Redemption
 2 Program, amending various parts of the statutory law, ¹**and**¹
 3 supplementing chapter 71C of Title 18A of the New Jersey
 4 Statutes¹, and repealing section 9 of P.L.2009, c.236¹.

5
 6 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
 7 of New Jersey:

8
 9 1. N.J.S.18A:71C-32 is amended to read as follows:

10 18A:71C-32. "Approved site" means a site located within a State
 11 designated underserved area or a health professional shortage area,
 12 or a clinic which is part of the extramural network of dental clinics
 13 established by the New Jersey Dental School of Rutgers, The State
 14 University, or a site that has been determined by the Higher
 15 Education Student Assistance Authority, in consultation with the
 16 Department of Health **and Senior Services**, to serve medically
 17 underserved populations according to criteria determined by the
 18 authority **and**, including, but not limited to, the percentage of
 19 medically underserved patients served **in accordance with section**
 20 ¹**18**¹ **17**¹ of P.L. ¹**18**¹, c. (C. ¹**18**¹) (pending before the Legislature as
 21 this bill).

22 "Authority" means the Higher Education Student Assistance
 23 Authority.

24 "Eligible qualifying loan expenses" means the cumulative
 25 outstanding balance of student loans covering the cost of attendance
 26 at an ²**undergraduate**² institution of medical, dental, or other
 27 primary care professional education at the time an applicant is
 28 selected for the program. Interest paid or due on qualifying loans
 29 that an applicant has taken out for use in paying the costs of
 30 ²**undergraduate**² medical, dental, or other primary care
 31 professional education shall be considered eligible for
 32 reimbursement under the program. The **authority may establish a**
 33 **limit on the** total amount of qualifying loans which may be
 34 redeemed for participants under the program **and**, provided that the
 35 total redemption of qualifying loans does not exceed \$120,000 **and**
 36 shall be \$200,000 for participants employed at an approved site, or
 37 the maximum amount authorized by the federal government,
 38 whichever is greater, either in State funds or the sum of federal,
 39 State, and other non-federal matching funds, pursuant to section
 40 338I of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.s.254q-1),
 41 whichever is applicable.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AAP committee amendments adopted September 23, 2024.

²Senate SHI committee amendments adopted February 10, 2025.

³Assembly amendments adopted in accordance with Governor's recommendations January 12, 2026.

1 "Executive director" means the executive director of the Higher
2 Education Student Assistance Authority.

3 "Health professional shortage area" (HPSA) means an urban or
4 rural area, a population group or a public or non-profit private
5 medical or dental facility or other public facility which the
6 Secretary of Health and Human Services determines has a health
7 professional shortage pursuant to section 332 of the Public Health
8 Service Act (42 U.S.C. s.254e).

9 ²"Medical, dental, or other primary care professional education"
10 means the period of time between entry into medical school, dental
11 school, or other primary care or medical professional training
12 program and the award of a degree in allopathic or osteopathic
13 medicine, dentistry, or another primary care profession,
14 respectively.²

15 "Primary care" means the practice of family medicine, general
16 internal medicine, general pediatrics, general obstetrics,
17 gynecology, pediatric dentistry, general dentistry, public health
18 dentistry, and any other areas of medicine or dentistry which the
19 Commissioner of Health **【and Senior Services】** may define as
20 primary care. Primary care also includes the practice of a nurse-
21 practitioner, certified nurse-midwife, and physician assistant.

22 "Primary care practitioner" means a State-licensed or certified
23 health care professional who has obtained a degree in allopathic or
24 osteopathic medicine, dentistry, or another primary care profession
25 at an ²**【undergraduate】**² institution of medical, dental, or other
26 primary care professional education, as applicable.

27 "Program" means the **【Primary Care Practitioner】** Health Care
28 Professional Loan Redemption Program established pursuant to
29 N.J.S.18A:71C-33.

30 "Program participant" means a **【primary care】** practitioner who
31 contracts with the authority to engage in the clinical practice of
32 primary care, psychiatry or other qualifying health care field **【at an**
33 **approved site】** at an approved site in exchange for the redemption
34 of eligible qualifying loan expenses provided under the program.

35 "Qualifying loan" means a government or commercial loan for
36 the actual costs paid for tuition and reasonable education and living
37 expenses relating to the obtaining of a degree in allopathic or
38 osteopathic medicine, dentistry, or another primary care profession.

39 "State designated ¹medically¹ underserved area" means a
40 geographic area in this State which has been ranked by the
41 Commissioner of Health **【and Senior Services】** on the basis of
42 health status and economic indicators as reflecting a medical or
43 dental health professional shortage , in consultation with the
44 Commissioner of Human Services; ³**【a municipality which has**
45 **more than 50 percent of its households at or below 185 percent of**
46 **the federal poverty level;】**³ or a municipality with a medically
47 underserved area or population designation reflecting health status

1 and economic indicators as determined by the United States Health
2 Resources and Services Administration.

3 "Total and permanent disability" means a physical or mental
4 disability that is expected to continue indefinitely or result in death
5 and renders a participant in the program unable to perform that
6 person's service obligation, as determined by the executive director
7 or **his** a designee.

8 ²**["Undergraduate medical, dental, or other primary care**
9 **professional education" means the period of time between entry into**
10 **medical school, dental school, or other primary care or medical**
11 **professional training program and the award of a degree in**
12 **allopathic or osteopathic medicine, dentistry, or another primary**
13 **care profession, respectively.]**²

14 (cf: P.L.2012, c.45, s.99)

15
16 2. N.J.S.18A:71C-33 is amended to read as follows:

17 18A:71C-33. There is established a **Primary Care Practitioner**
18 Health Care Professional Loan Redemption Program within the
19 Higher Education Student Assistance Authority. The program shall
20 provide for the redemption of a portion of the eligible qualifying
21 loan expenses of program participants for each year of service at an
22 approved site.

23 (cf: P.L.2009, c.145, s.2)

24
25 3. N.J.S.18A:71C-34 is amended to read as follows:

26 18A:71C-34. To be eligible to participate in the program, an
27 applicant shall:

28 a. be a resident of the State;

29 b. be a primary care practitioner , psychiatrist, or other health
30 care professional designated by the Commissioner of Health
31 pursuant to section ¹**[17]** 16¹ of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before
32 the Legislature as this bill) for inclusion in the program; and

33 c. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2009, c.145.)

34 d. agree to practice primary care, psychiatry, or other
35 qualifying medical care, as appropriate, at an approved site under
36 the terms and conditions provided in N.J.S.18A:71C-36 and the
37 agreement issued thereunder.

38 (cf: P.L.2009, c.145, s.3)

39
40 4. N.J.S.18A:71C-35 is amended to read as follows:

41 18A:71C-35. The Commissioner of Health **and Senior**
42 **Services**], after consultation with the **Commissioner of**
43 **Corrections and the** Commissioner of Human Services, shall
44 designate and establish a ranking of State designated underserved
45 areas , including both professional shortage areas and medically
46 underserved areas. The criteria used by the Commissioner of Health

1 **【and Senior Services】** in designating areas shall include, but not be
2 limited to:

3 a. the financial resources of the population under
4 consideration, including the percentage of the population that is
5 eligible for medical assistance pursuant to P.L.1968, c.413
6 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.) and P.L.2005, c.156 (C.30:4J-8 et seq.), and the
7 percentage of the population that does not have health insurance
8 coverage;

9 b. the population's access to primary care , psychiatry, and
10 other medical services;

11 c. appropriate physician, dentist, ¹**【psychiatry】 psychiatrist¹**, or
12 other primary care staffing in State, county, municipal and private
13 nonprofit health care facilities and in clinics which are part of the
14 extramural network of dental clinics established by the New Jersey
15 Dental School of Rutgers, The State University; and

16 d. the extent to which racial and ethnic disparities in health
17 care in a geographic area, including, but not limited to, disparities
18 in the incidence of cancer, cardiovascular disease, stroke, chemical
19 dependency, diabetes, asthma, homicide, suicide, accidental injury,
20 infant mortality, child immunization rates, HIV/AIDS, dental caries,
21 and periodontal disease, indicate the need to increase access to
22 **【primary】 health** care services among racial and ethnic minority
23 populations in that area.

24 ³**【A municipality which has more than 50 percent of its**
25 **households at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty level**
26 **shall automatically be deemed a State designated underserved area**
27 **without action by the Commissioner of Health.】³**

28 The Commissioner of Health **【and Senior Services】** shall
29 transmit the list of State designated ¹medically¹ underserved areas
30 ¹**【, the data source used to determine State designated underserved**
31 **areas, the data source used to determine the total percentage of**
32 **Medicaid enrollees and uninsured persons in each county as**
33 **required by paragraph (3) of subsection a. of section 18 of**
34 **P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).】¹**
35 and the number of positions needed in each area to the executive
36 director or designee by January 1 of each year ¹. The Commissioner
37 of Human Services shall transmit the total percentage of Medicaid
38 enrollees in each county as required by paragraph (3) of subsection
39 a. of section 17 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
40 Legislature as this bill) to the executive director or designee by
41 January 1 of each year¹.

42 (cf: P.L.2012, c.45, s.100)

43

44 5. (New section) The authority shall annually publish on its
45 Internet website:

46 a. the list of State designated ¹medically¹underserved areas and
47 the number of positions needed in each area as determined pursuant

1 to section 4 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
2 as this bill) 'as transmitted by the Commissioner of Health';

3 b. '[the data source used to determine State designated
4 underserved areas pursuant to section 4 of P.L. , c. (C.)
5 (pending before the Legislature as this bill) and the data source used
6 to determine]' the total percentage of Medicaid enrollees '[and
7 uninsured persons]' in each county as required by paragraph (3) of
8 subsection a. of section '[18] 17' of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
9 before the Legislature as this bill), as transmitted by the
10 Commissioner of '[Health] Human Services'; and

11 c. any other sources 'for criteria' utilized by the authority to
12 review 'and evaluate loan recipients' or approved sites'
13 applications for the Health Care Professional Loan Redemption
14 Program established pursuant to N.J.S.18A:71C-33.

15

16 6. N.J.S.18A:71C-36 is amended to read as follows:

17 18A:71C-36. a. In administering the program, the authority or
18 its designated agent shall contract only with a primary care
19 practitioner, psychiatrist, or other health care practitioner employed
20 in a field designated by the Commissioner of Health for inclusion in
21 the program pursuant to section' [17] 16' of P.L. , c. (C.)
22 (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

23 b. The contract for a program participant employed at an
24 approved site shall require a program participant to:

25 (1) serve at least an initial two-year period at an approved site in
26 the full-time clinical practice of that person's **[primary care]**
27 profession;

28 (2) charge for professional services at the usual and customary
29 rate prevailing in the area in which the approved site is located, but
30 allow a patient who is unable to pay that charge to pay at a reduced
31 rate or receive care at no charge;

32 (3) not discriminate against any patient in the provision of
33 health care services on the basis of that person's ability to pay or
34 source of payment; and

35 (4) agree not to impose any charge in excess of the limiting fee
36 for a service, as determined by the United States Secretary of
37 Health and Human Services, to a recipient of benefits under the
38 federal Medicare program established pursuant to Pub.L.89-97 (42
39 U.S.C.s.1395 et seq.).

40 c. The contract for any program participant shall also specify
41 the applicant's dates of required service and the total amount of
42 eligible qualifying loan expenses to be redeemed by the State in
43 return for service, and stipulate that the applicant has knowledge of
44 and agrees to the six-month probationary period required prior to
45 final acceptance into the program pursuant to N.J.S.18A:71C-38.

46 (cf: P.L.2009, c.145, s.5)

1 7. Section 10 of P.L.2009, c.145 (C.18A:71C-36.1) is amended
2 to read as follows:

3 10. a. A program participant, as a condition of participation,
4 shall be required to adhere to performance standards established by
5 the executive director or **his** a designee and if the **approved site**
6 **is** program participant is employed at a clinic which is part of the
7 extramural network of dental clinics established by the New Jersey
8 Dental School of Rutgers, The State University the program
9 participant shall also meet performance standards set by the New
10 Jersey Dental School.

11 b. The standards shall include, but not be limited to,
12 requirements that a participant:

13 (1) maintain residency in the State;

14 (2) maintain a license or certification to practice a primary care
15 profession, psychiatry, or other qualifying health care profession in
16 the State;

17 (3) remain current with payments on student loans;

18 (4) enter into a mutually acceptable contract with an approved
19 site;

20 (5) maintain satisfactory performance of services rendered **at**
21 **an approved site**; and

22 (6) report to the authority or its designee, on a form and in a
23 manner prescribed by the authority or its designee, on the program
24 participant's performance of services rendered **at an approved site**
25 prior to repayment of the annual amount eligible for redemption.

26 (cf: P.L.2012, c.45, s.101)
27

28 8. N.J.S.18A:71C-37 is amended to read as follows:

29 18A:71C-37. a. Maximum redemption of loans under the loan
30 redemption program shall amount to 18 **%** percent of principal
31 and interest of eligible qualifying loan expenses in return for one
32 full year of service at an approved site, an additional 26 **%**
33 percent for a second full year of service, an additional 28 **%**
34 percent for a third full year of service and an additional 28 **%**
35 percent for a fourth full year of service for a total redemption of
36 eligible qualifying loan expenses of up to, but not to exceed,
37 **[\$120,00]** \$200,000 for service at an approved site, or the
38 maximum amount authorized by the federal government, whichever
39 is greater, either (1) in State funds or (2) the sum of federal, State,
40 and other non-federal funds pursuant to section 338I of the Public
41 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.s.254q-1), whichever is applicable.
42 No amount of eligible qualifying loan expenses shall be redeemed
43 for services performed for less than a full year.

44 b. A participant who enters an agreement to fulfill service in a
45 State designated underserved area that is also a HPSA shall be
46 permitted a total redemption of eligible qualifying loan expenses for
47 four years of service up to, but not to exceed, the sum of federal,

1 State and other non-federal matching funds provided pursuant to
2 section 338I of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.s.254q-1).

3 c. A program participant who enters an agreement to fulfill
4 service in a State designated underserved area that is not also a
5 HPSA shall be permitted a total redemption of eligible qualifying
6 loan expenses for four years of service up to, but not to exceed,
7 **[\$120,00]** \$200,000, or the maximum amount authorized by the
8 federal government, whichever is greater, in State funds.

9 d. A program participant who has engaged in full-time clinical
10 practice during the participant's initial two years of participation in
11 the program shall be permitted to fulfill the program participant's
12 subsequent service obligations on a part-time basis with the
13 approval of the authority or its designee and the program
14 participant's employer in a State designated underserved area, with
15 the program participant's redemption credit accruing on a pro rata
16 basis. The program participant may be permitted a total redemption
17 of eligible qualifying loan expenses for the equivalent of four years
18 of full-time service.

19 (cf: P.L.2009, c.145, s.6)

20
21 9. N.J.S.18A:71C-38 is amended to read as follows:

22 18A:71C-38. Each program participant shall serve a six-month
23 probationary period upon initial placement at an approved site.
24 During that period, the **[primary care]** supervisory staff of the
25 approved site, or in the case of a clinic which is part of the
26 extramural network of dental clinics established by the New Jersey
27 Dental School of Rutgers, The State University, the director of the
28 clinics and the vice-dean of the dental school, together with the
29 program participant and the executive director or ²**[his]** a²
30 designee, shall evaluate the suitability of the placement for the
31 program participant. At the end of the probationary period, the
32 **[primary care]** supervisory staff shall recommend the continuation
33 of the program participant's present placement, a change in
34 placement, or its determination that the program participant is an
35 unsuitable candidate for the program. If the **[primary care]**
36 supervisory staff of the approved site recommends a change in
37 placement, the executive director or a designee shall approve an
38 alternate placement at an approved site. If the **[primary care]**
39 supervisory staff determines that the program participant is not a
40 suitable candidate for the program, the executive director or ²**[his]**
41 a² designee shall take this recommendation into consideration in
42 regard to the program participant's final acceptance into the
43 program. No loan redemption payment shall be made during the six-
44 month probationary period; however, a program participant shall
45 receive credit for the six-month period in calculating the first year
46 of required service under the loan redemption contract.

47 (cf: P.L.2012, c.45, s.102)

1 10. N.J.S.18A:71C-39 is amended to read as follows:

2 18A:71C-39. The executive director or **【his】** a designee, in
3 consultation with the Commissioner of Health **【and Senior**
4 **Services】**, shall **【match】** assist program applicants and participants
5 **【to State designated underserved areas or HPSAs】** in identifying an
6 approved site. A program applicant or participant may identify a
7 proposed site for designation as an approved site, provided that the
8 site meets the criteria established pursuant to section ¹**【18】 17¹** of
9 P.L. _____, c. _____ (C. _____) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).
10 Nothing in this act shall prohibit a program applicant or participant
11 from identifying an approved site for designation and approval
12 under the program.

13 (cf: P.L.2009, c.145, s.8)

14

15 11. N.J.S.18A:71C-40 is amended to read as follows:

16 18A:71C-40. The executive director or **【his】** a designee shall
17 select the program participants from among those applicants who
18 meet the eligibility criteria established pursuant to N.J.S.18A:71C-
19 34, subject to available funds and available approved sites , as
20 applicable. In the event that there are insufficient funds or approved
21 sites to select all of the applicants who meet the eligibility criteria,
22 the executive director or **【his】** a designee shall accord priority to
23 applicants in the following manner:

24 a. first, to any applicant who **【is completing a fourth, third or**
25 **second year of a loan redemption contract】** ¹is employed by or¹ has
26 an offer of employment at an approved site;

27 b. second, to any applicant according to the severity of the
28 **【physician, dentist, or other primary care】** health care provider
29 shortage in the area selected by the applicant; **【and】**

30 c. third, to any applicant whose residence in the State at **【the**
31 **time of entry into postsecondary education】** any time prior to
32 initiating an application was within a State designated underserved
33 area ;

34 d. fourth, to any applicant whose approved site is a community-
35 based ambulatory healthcare practice, which includes practices
36 operated by a private entity that provide comprehensive pediatric
37 care, behavioral health care, preventative care, or primary care
38 health services;

39 e. fifth, to any applicant whose approved site is a hospital-
40 affiliated practice or clinic that provides comprehensive pediatric
41 care, behavioral health care, preventative care, or primary care
42 services; and

43 f. sixth, to any applicant who graduated from a high school or
44 institution of higher education in the State, or completed a medical
45 residency in the State.

46 In the event that there are more applicants who have the same
47 priority than there are program positions, the executive director or

1 **【his】** a designee shall select program participants by means of a
2 lottery or other form of random selection.

3 (cf: P.L.2009, c.145, s.9)

4
5 12. N.J.S.18A:71C-41 is amended to read as follows:

6 18A:71C-41. A program participant who has previously entered
7 into a contract with the authority may nullify the agreement by
8 notifying the authority in writing and reassuming full responsibility
9 for the remaining outstanding balance of the loan debt. In no event
10 shall service **【at an approved site】** for less than the full calendar
11 year of each period of service entitle the program participant to any
12 benefits under the program. A program participant seeking to
13 nullify the contract before completing a second full year of service
14 shall be required to pay 50 **【%】** percent of the redeemed portion of
15 indebtedness in not more than one year following nullification of
16 the agreement.

17 (cf: P.L.2009, c.145, s.11)

18
19 13. N.J.S.18A:71C-44 is amended to read as follows:

20 18A:71C-44. A student who is participating in the federally
21 administered National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment
22 Program, section 338B of the Public Health Service Act (42
23 U.S.C.s.254 1-1), shall not be eligible to participate simultaneously
24 in the **【Primary Care Practitioner】** Health Care Professional Loan
25 Redemption Program.

26 (cf: P.L.2009, c.145, s.15)

27
28 14. Section 18 of P.L.2009, c.145 (C.18A:71C-46.1) is amended
29 to read as follows:

30 18. The authority shall work with State institutions of medical,
31 dental, and other **【primary】** health care professional education to
32 ensure that information on the **【Primary Care Practitioner】** Health
33 Care Professional Loan Redemption Program is made available to
34 students upon enrollment.

35 (cf: P.L.2009, c.145, s.18)

36
37 ¹**【15.** Section 9 of P.L.2009, c.236 (C.18A:71C-58) is amended
38 to read as follows:

39 9. Of the funds annually appropriated for the **【Primary Care**
40 **Practitioner】** Health Care Professional Loan Redemption Program
41 established in the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority
42 pursuant to N.J.S.18A:71C-32 et seq., 25 **【%】** percent shall be
43 dedicated to the Nursing Faculty Loan Redemption Program
44 established pursuant to **【this act】** section 4 of P.L.2009, c.236
45 (C.18A:71C-53). Of the funds dedicated to the Nursing Faculty
46 Loan Redemption Program, funds in excess of the amount
47 necessary to satisfy qualifying applications pursuant to the Nursing

1 Faculty Loan Redemption Program may be reallocated to the Health
 2 Care Professional Loan Redemption Program upon the
 3 recommendation of the Executive Director of the Higher Education
 4 Student Assistance Authority, subject to the approval of the
 5 Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting. The program
 6 shall be administered directly by the Higher Education Student
 7 Assistance Authority.
 8 (cf: P.L.2009, c.236, s.9)]¹

10 ¹[16.] 15.¹ Section 7 of P.L.2017, c.126 (C.18A:71C-65) is
 11 amended to read as follows:

12 7. An individual who is participating in the [Primary Care
 13 Practitioner] Health Care Professional Loan Redemption Program,
 14 N.J.S.18A:71C-32 et seq., or in the federally administered National
 15 Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program, section 338B of
 16 the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. s.2541-1), shall not be
 17 eligible to participate simultaneously in the tuition reimbursement
 18 program for psychiatrists established pursuant to [this act] section
 19 2 of P.L.2017, c.126 (C.18A:71C-60).
 20 (cf: P.L.2017, c.126, s.7)

22 ¹[17.] 16.¹ (New section) The Commissioner of Health, after
 23 consultation with the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce
 24 Development and the Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs,
 25 may designate additional health care fields experiencing critical
 26 Statewide labor shortages for inclusion in the program. ²[Any
 27 additional health care field included in the program shall require a
 28 degree in allopathic or osteopathic medicine.]²

30 ¹[18.] 17.¹ (New section) a. A site shall automatically be
 31 deemed an approved site if the site:

32 (1) is located within a State designated underserved area or a
 33 health professional shortage area, or is a clinic which is part of the
 34 extramural network of dental clinics established by the New Jersey
 35 Dental School of Rutgers, The State University, or is determined by
 36 the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority, in consultation
 37 with the Department of Health, to serve medically underserved
 38 populations;

39 (2) participates in the Medicaid and Medicare programs,
 40 however, the authority shall not require participation in more than
 41 one Medicaid managed care organization;

42 (3) ³in a county in which less than 30 percent of the population
 43 are Medicaid enrollees, the site³ serves medically underserved
 44 populations at a rate equal to or greater than ³[80 percent multiplied
 45 by]³ the percentage of residents of the county ³[in which the site is
 46 located that] who³ are Medicaid enrollees ³, and in a county in
 47 which 30 percent or more of the population are Medicaid enrollees,

1 the site serves medically underserved populations at a rate equal to
2 or greater than 80 percent of the percentage of residents of the
3 county who are Medicaid enrollees³ ¹~~or uninsured persons, which~~
4 ~~shall be calculated by the Commissioner of Health~~¹;

5 (4) uses a sliding fee scale for patients falling under 250 percent
6 of the federal poverty level who are uninsured or underinsured; and

7 (5) does not discriminate against any patient in the provision of
8 health care services on the basis of that person's ability to pay or
9 source of payment.

10 b. If a site is unable to demonstrate that it serves medically
11 underserved populations as required pursuant to paragraph (3) of
12 subsection a. of this section, the authority may approve a site if the
13 site:

14 (1) meets each requirement outlined in subsection a. of this
15 section except for the requirement outlined in paragraph (3) of
16 subsection a. of this section; and

17 (2) is accepting ³and serving³ new Medicaid patients.

18 c. The authority shall not require any additional site eligibility
19 requirements.
20

21 ¹~~19.~~ ¹18. (New section) The authority shall annually submit a
22 report on the Health Care Professional Loan Redemption Program
23 established pursuant to N.J.S.18A:71C-32 et seq. to the Governor,
24 and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164
25 (C.52:14-19.1). The report shall be submitted no later than August 1
26 of each year and shall include, but not be limited to, the following
27 information for the prior fiscal year:

28 a. the total number of participants receiving loan redemption
29 under the program;

30 b. the total amount of loan redemption provided through the
31 program;

32 c. a profile of program participants, including demographic
33 information and medical specialty, information on the employers of
34 program participants, including if a participant's approved site
35 contracts with a State entity, and the last institution of higher
36 education from which the participant received a degree;

37 d. the average annual loan redemption amount and the five-year
38 average loan redemption amount of program participants;

39 e. the total number of health care professionals who have
40 completed the program and remain licensed to practice in the State,
41 including information on if a health care professional who completed
42 the program is employed in a medically underserved community; and

43 f. the effect of the program on meeting the demand for labor in
44 primary care, psychiatry, and other qualifying health care fields in
45 the State.
46

47 ¹19. Section 9 of P.L.2009, c.236 (C.18A:71C-58) is repealed.¹

1 20. ¹**Section 1** of P.L.1999, c.46 (**1** N.J.S.¹ 18A:71C-48 ¹**)**¹ is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 The authority shall adopt rules and regulations pursuant to the
4 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
5 seq.) necessary to implement the provisions of N.J.S.18A:71C-32
6 through N.J.S.18A:71C-47 and section ¹**18**¹17¹ of
7 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).
8 (cf: P.L. 1999, c.46, s.1)
9

10 21. ³**This** Section 4 and subsections a. and b. of section 5 of
11 this³ act shall take effect immediately and ³**shall** first apply to
12 initial program applications submitted on or after the enactment of
13 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)**the**
14 remainder of this act shall take effect on July 1, 2026³.