

INCLUDE MIDWIVES IN MICHIGAN ESSENTIAL HEALTH PROVIDER RECRUITMENT STRATEGY

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Senate Bill 825 (S-1) as passed by the Senate
Sponsor: Sen. Sarah Anthony
House Committee: Health Policy [Discharged]
Senate Committee: Housing and Human Services
Complete to 12-18-24

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 825 would amend the Public Health Code to include midwives and midwifery programs in the Michigan State Loan Repayment Program and related provisions.

Part 27 (Michigan Essential Health Provider Recruitment Strategy) of the code directs the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to administer a loan repayment program for designated professionals who have incurred a debt or expenses as a result of a loan taken to attend a medical school, dental school, mental health professional program, nursing program for the training of certified nurse midwives, certified nurse practitioners, or clinical nurse specialists-certified, or physician's assistant program or as a result of providing services in a health resource shortage area. Participants must provide full-time primary health care services for two years at a not-for-profit health clinic in a designated health professional shortage area to have a loan forgiven under the program. The program provides up to \$300,000 in tax-free funds to repay educational loans over a period of up to 10 years (with a maximum amount in any given year of \$40,000).¹

As described above, the program now includes repayment for expenses incurred to attend a nursing program for the training certified nurse midwives (registered nurses with a specialty certification in the practice or nurse midwifery). The bill would additionally make expenses to attend a midwifery program (an accredited program for the training of individuals to become midwives licensed under the code) eligible for the loan repayment program.

In addition, Part 27 now allows DHHS to cooperate with a certified nurse midwifery service to support the placement of certified nurse midwives in health resource shortage areas. The bill would expand this to allow the department to cooperate with any of the following to support the placement of certified nurse midwives in health resource shortage areas:²

- A certified nurse midwifery service.
- An association representing Michigan midwives or certified nurse midwives.
- An association representing Michigan midwives and certified nurse midwives who attend births in homes and in freestanding birth centers (as proposed by House Bill 5636).³

¹ <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/doing-business/providers/slrp/michigan-state-loan-repayment-program-overview>

² Designated by DHHS under section 2717: <https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Laws/MCL?objectName=mcl-333-2717>

³ <https://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2023-2024/billanalysis/House/pdf/2023-HLA-5636-F3F966A2.pdf>

Finally, the code now requires DHHS to report every two years to the DHHS appropriations subcommittees in the House and the Senate, the House and Senate Fiscal Agencies, the governor, and the Public Health Advisory Council on the status of the Michigan Essential Health Provider Recruitment Strategy for the previous two years. In addition to the information already required to be included in the report, the bill would require DHHS to include an assessment of whether the maximum amount of debt or expense repayment an individual can receive under the program should be adjusted to reflect changes in tuition costs for students enrolled in midwifery programs.

MCL 333.2701 et seq.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Senate Bill 825 would not have a significant fiscal impact on state expenditures to the Department of Health and Human Services or local units of government. Any fiscal impact would be dependent on increased costs that would exceed what has already been appropriated for essential local public health services. In FY 2024-25, \$76.4 million Gross (\$71.3 million GF/GP) was appropriated for essential local public health services.

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.