

1 _____ BILL NO. _____

2 INTRODUCED BY _____
3 (Primary Sponsor)

4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT CREATING THE MONTANA PHYSICIANS' WORKFORCE
5 INVESTMENT ACT; CREATING A GRANT PROGRAM TO SUPPORT GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION
6 IN MONTANA; ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM; REQUIRING THE
7 DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY TO STAFF THE TASK FORCE; ESTABLISHING REPORTING
8 REQUIREMENTS; PROVIDING AN ALLOCATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

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10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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12 NEW SECTION. Section 1. Short title. [Sections 1 through 5] may be cited as the "Montana
13 Physicians' Workforce Investment Act".

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15 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Purpose. The purposes of [sections 1 through 5] are to address
16 Montana's physician workforce needs by:

- 17 (1) creating a graduate medical education task force; and
18 (2) establishing a start-up grant program to support the creation of graduate medical education
19 programs in the state.

20
21 NEW SECTION. Section 3. Definitions. As used in [sections 1 through 5], the following definitions
22 apply:

23 (1) "Graduate medical education" means residency and fellowship programs that provide
24 additional training after medical school that is required for medical graduates to obtain full medical licensure
25 and become eligible for specialty board certification.

26 (2) "Health sector facility" means a for-profit or nonprofit place of employment whose primary
27 function is the delivery of health care services.

28 (3) "Medical graduate" means a person who has graduated from a medical doctor program or

1 doctor of osteopathic medicine program but who has not yet completed a graduate medical education program.

2 (4) "Physician" has the same meaning as provided in 37-3-102.

3 (5) "Task force" means the Montana graduate medical education task force established in [section
4 4].

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6 **NEW SECTION. Section 4. Montana graduate medical education task force -- membership --**

7 **duties -- reporting.** (1) There is a Montana graduate medical education task force. The task force consists of
8 12 members:

9 (a) the director of the department of public health and human services or the director's designee;

10 (b) the commissioner of higher education or the commissioner's designee;

11 (c) the following individuals appointed by the governor:

12 (i) a representative of the department of labor and industry with experience in physician workforce
13 issues;

14 (ii) a representative of an organization that represents Montana physicians;

15 (iii) one representative from each of the three medical school programs in the state;

16 (iv) two representatives from a hospital or other health sector facility with a graduate medical
17 education program in the state; and

18 (v) one patient advocate; and

19 (d) two nonvoting members who are legislators:

20 (i) one house of representatives member selected by the speaker of the house; and

21 (ii) one senate member selected by the president of the senate.

22 (2) The task force shall elect a presiding officer and vice presiding officer.

23 (3) The task force shall develop and administer a grant program allowing Montana-based health
24 sector facilities to apply for a start-up grant to establish a graduate medical education program.

25 (4) By September 1 of each year, the task force shall submit an annual report to the governor, the
26 economic affairs interim committee, and the children, families, health, and human services interim committee in
27 accordance with 5-11-210. The report must include:

28 (a) a description of the task force's proceedings since the previous report;

- 1 (b) an itemized expenditure report; and
- 2 (c) details of the graduate medical education grant program established in [section 5], including:
 - 3 (i) health sector facilities that received grants;
 - 4 (ii) the number of graduate medical education programs established or in development;
 - 5 (iii) the specialty and location of each graduate medical education program;
 - 6 (iv) the number of positions for medical graduates created in each graduate medical education
 - 7 program and how many of these positions were filled; and
 - 8 (v) the accreditation status of each graduate medical education program.
- 9 (5) The department of labor and industry shall provide staff services to the task force.

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11 **NEW SECTION. Section 5. Graduate medical education grant program -- eligibility.** (1) (a)

12 There is a graduate medical education grant program administered by the Montana graduate medical education
13 task force established in [section 4]. The purpose of the program is to address a shortage of physicians in the
14 state by developing and expanding graduate medical education programs in the state.

15 (b) The task force shall develop policies and procedures to receive and evaluate applications and
16 to administer grant funding.

17 (2) An application for a grant under this program must include:

- 18 (a) the specialty area for each program;
- 19 (b) proof of program accreditation or steps to obtain accreditation;
- 20 (c) a 2-year financial cost projection for the program; and
- 21 (d) a 5-year sustainability plan to ensure the program remains operational after the grant ends.

22 (3) A recipient of a grant under this program shall:

23 (a) attest that the recipient provides equal consideration for placement within a grant-funded
24 graduate medical education program to applicants who:

- 25 (i) are graduates of medical doctor programs or doctor of osteopathic medicine programs; or
- 26 (ii) have passed the United States medical licensing examination or the comprehensive
- 27 osteopathic medical licensing examination; and

28 (b) submit the information prescribed in [section 4(4)] by July 30 of each year so the task force

1 may include it in the task force's required report.

2 (4) The maximum grant amount a recipient may receive is \$2 million.

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4 NEW SECTION. Section 6. Allocation. There is allocated to the department of labor and industry \$6
5 million from the general fund for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, for the graduate medical education grant
6 program provided for in [section 5].

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9 NEW SECTION. Section 7. Codification instruction. [Sections 1 through 5] are intended to be
10 codified as an integral part of Title 39, chapter 11, part 2, and the provisions of Title 39, chapter 11, part 2,
11 apply to [sections 1 through 5].

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13 NEW SECTION. Section 8. Effective date. [This act] is effective July 1, 2025.

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